





Who is Sufficient?

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

They were like arrogant & ignorant teens... thinking "we know best" while not knowing much

+

Paul loved them

=

Difficult tension





Crucial Context, continued

we covered the background; consider the foreground:

The church is now making progress!

(7:5-9)

*...BUT the 'super apostles' are a legitimate threat. Thus,
Paul writes 2 Corinthians*



2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.



2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.



2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.



2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



*Don't be Strong in order to Impress,
Be Weak in order to Bless*

Because God's power is made perfect in weakness



Paul models Power in Weakness

1) By Waiting (v12-13)



Paul models Power in Weakness

1) By Waiting (v12-13)

Invest Faithfully Over Time





Paul models Power in Weakness

1) By Waiting (v12-13)

*Invest Faithfully & Patiently in others
because of God's Patience with you*

Romans 2:4



Paul models Power in Weakness

2) By Losing (v14-16)

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession...



Paul models Power in Weakness

2) By Losing (v14-16)

Jesus is the Victor.

He's the reason for everything.

He is the best life [not just "best life now"]



Paul models Power in Weakness

2) By Losing (v14-16)

*We are His aroma –
to everyone everywhere*



Paul models Power in Weakness

2) By Losing (v14-16)

*We are His aroma – everywhere...
How could you grow in show & tell?*



Who is Sufficient?

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6



Paul models Power in Weakness

3) By Actively Waiting (2:17-3:3)



Paul models Power in Weakness

3) By Actively Waiting (2:17-3:3)

While God's power in our weakness might sometimes feel/seem awkward; it's not. What's beyond awkward is to claim Christ and not do what He says.



Paul models Power in Weakness

3) By Actively Waiting (2:17-3:3)

*Whose letter are you?
Who is your letter?*



Paul models Power in Weakness

4) By Trusting the Sufficient One, not himself (3:4-6)

What Christ has done is completely sufficient for all that we do.



What God has done is sufficient for all we do.

How does someone live this?

Repent & Believe:

*Walk with God (points 2 & 4)
& Walk with People (points 1 & 3)*

Expect God's Power in Your Weakness