



The Source of Our Sufficiency

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:5
February 13, 2022

The Big Idea: An age-old question that emerged in the Old Testament, was repeatedly discussed in the New Testament, and that is often on our minds is “Who is **qualified** to serve the Lord?” How we answer that question reveals much about what we truly understand about who **we** are and who **Christ** is.

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:5 (ESV)

2 ¹²When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³my 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.

¹⁴But 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.* ¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For 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.

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³And 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.

⁴ *Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.*

⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.

3 Powerful and Essential Truths for Every Christian

1. We have **victory** in Christ. That victory is never a guarantee of a trouble-free life.
2. The victory of Christ, though, always includes being able to testify of the glories of the One who won the victory and brought us home as **trophies** of His **grace**. We get to make our King known throughout the world.
3. We are **not** qualified, competent, or sufficient to serve God. Christ **is** qualified, competent, and sufficient and He invites us into His life of **knowing** and **serving** the Lord.

Who We Are – Who Christ Is

- We are unqualified. Jesus qualifies us.
- We are unrighteous. Jesus is our righteousness.
- We are not competent. Jesus is our competence.
 - We are weak. Jesus is strong.
 - We are not sufficient. Jesus is our sufficiency.

God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you, all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you.

■ A Puritan writer
