Sufficiency In Christ

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

1. Intro
2. Text
   1. Recap:
      1. Challenges come
      2. Conviction comes
      3. Victory Comes!
      4. All of this comes from a relationship with Christ
      5. And that builds a foundation for things that are most important:
   2. Verse 4:
      1. Confidence through Christ towards God
      2. The Trinity is spoken of in this little paragraph
      3. The way we are made confident with GOD is through the person of Christ.
      4. There is one God, and the attributes of God bring a mix of responses from creation:
         1. Holiness: strikes fear in the hearts of people
         2. Love: brings us close
         3. Sovereignty: puts things in perspective
         4. Grace: allows us to KNOW him
      5. So, with the mix of FEAR and RESPECT, and LOVE and PEACE that comes from God, we must know what Christ accomplished in His life and in His sacrifice
      6. He paid the price that allows for relationship!
   3. Verse 5
      1. We are not sufficient in ourselves, we are sufficient only in Christ
      2. BUT WE ARE SUFFICIENT IN CHRIST!
      3. Not just sinners saved by grace, but servants sent on mission
   4. Verse 6
      1. HE HAS MADE: past perfect tense in English
      2. The GREEK verb tense is very different: This is the First Aorist Active Indicitave tense
         1. Past tense in reference to an event that has taken place
         2. Active Indicative in reference to a continue action into the furture
      3. So, we know that we have been MADE sufficient
      4. And we are still being made
      5. OF THE NEW COVENANT:
         1. Not of the letter: this phrase being here, in context, causes us to understand the difference between LAW (Old Covenant) and GRACE (New Covenant)
         2. But of the SPIRIT: there is distinction between the obedience to the letter of the written word, and the obedience to the Spirit’s work
         3. We can obey…but in grace we find that obedience is only part of the proper answer
         4. We are called to obey, but obedience comes from a heart change
3. Point
   1. Confidence through Christ
      1. Confidence in Christ as Ministers of the new Covenant
      2. We can approach the throne of Grace with confidence, but it doesn’t end there
         1. We can approach ministry with confidence
         2. We can approach life with confidence
         3. We can approach PANDEMICS with confidence
      3. What do you do when you are lacking confidence
         1. PRAY
         2. SURRENDER
         3. STOP! Stop working in the flesh
         4. START! Start again in trust and faith
      4. What does this confidence bring: MINISTRY
   2. Sufficiency from God
      1. God is enough, and He has spoken
      2. This is what brings us confidence
      3. Personal Note:
         1. I cannot bring you a word from myself that is going to matter for eternity
         2. I cannot forget my first responsibility is to teach the word, and I so believe that to be true, that I’ll teach it and allow the same spirit that inspired this word to do its work in application
         3. When we read this text, the Spirit of Christ alive in you is drawing you to application in your life.
         4. HAVE CONFIDENCE in your walk with God, and listen to HIS VOICE
      4. We are sufficient for the ministry we have been called to be a part of because of GOD, and not because we have earned it.
      5. Another Personal note:
         1. Ive been battling the concept of “good enough”
         2. Good is the enemy of great…or so they say, but the danger is settling for less than our best
         3. So a better thought is, not “is it good enough”, but is it honoring to God
         4. Is it sufficient?
      6. The horsepower for a Rolls Royce luxury car was not advertised early on, only marked as adequate.
         1. Adequate has a negative sound…sounds like its not enough, but it is
         2. Let’s be more than adequate…through God
   3. Life From the Spirit
      1. And God gives us Abundant Life through HIS SPIRIT.
      2. This is the work of the Spirit: Comfort and Conviction
      3. The Law was never mighty save, only Christ has that title.
      4. Life comes from God, Life gives us great opportunity: LIFE IS A CONNECTION TO GOD
      5. Life:
         1. A connection to fellowship with God
         2. A connection to the POWER of God
         3. A connection to the WORK that has been ongoing since before creation, and will continue through eternity.
      6. Death:
         1. Disconnection from fellowship with God
         2. And all that that implies
         3. Ephesians 2:1-5 1And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the bodya and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.b 4Butc God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
4. Close