

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns supporting a stone entablature. A large tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the left. The ground is rocky and sandy. The sky is clear blue.

The Spirit Gives Life
2 Corinthians 2:12 - 4:1-6

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What will we learn?

- ❖ God is sovereign over all.
 - ❖ Including our salvation.
 - ❖ Including our suffering.
 - ❖ Including our ministry.
- ❖ God is the source and supply of our lives.



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

Illyricum

Moesia

BLACK SEA

Armenia

Spain (Tarshish?)

Italy

• ROME

Thrace

Pontus

Roman Empire

Furthest extent in years 8 to 115 A.D.

Macedonia

Cappadocia

Africa

Asia Minor

Galatia

SYRIAN ANTIIOCH

Euphrates River

Achia

Syria

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Nabatea (Arabia)

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Egypt

Nile River

RED SEA

Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.



Major themes:

- ❖ Centrality of Jesus
- ❖ Apostolic ministry
- ❖ Hope of glory



2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- ❖ Suffering brings comfort from God.
- ❖ Suffering produces “patient endurance.”
- ❖ Suffering and comfort equip us for ministry.

Doctrines class:

- ❖ Theology proper
- ❖ Christology
- ❖ Pneumatology
(Holy Spirit)
- ❖ Soteriology
(salvation)
- ❖ Ecclesiology
(the church)
- ❖ Angelology
(including Satan)
- ❖ Eschatology
(end times)

2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:14

- ❖ Salvation starts with God, and it includes every person of the Trinity.
- ❖ God's people should be faithful.
- ❖ Disciples of Jesus should lead like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.



Greece & the Aegean

as traveled by Paul

THESSALONICA
BEREA
PHILIPPI

Macedonia

SEA OF MARMARA

TROAS

ASSOS

PERGAMUM

THYATIRA

Asia Minor

AGEAN SEA

DELPHI

SMYRNA

PHILADELPHIA

CORINTH

ATHENS

EPHESUS

LAODICEA

Achaia

SPARTA

Patmos

MILETUS

Lycia

ATTALIA

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Rhodes

PATARA

GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

Crete



2 Corinthians 7:5

For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within.

2 Corinthians 7:6-7

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

2 Corinthians 2:14 – 7:4

- ❖ A separate letter?
- ❖ A lengthy digression?
- ❖ A defense of Paul's ministry

2 Corinthians 2:14

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

2 Corinthians 2:17

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.



2 Corinthians 3:1-2

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?
Or do we need, like some people, letters
of recommendation to you or from you?
You yourselves are our letter, written on
our hearts, known and read by everyone.



2 Corinthians 3:3

You show that you are a letter from Christ,
the result of our ministry, written not with ink
but with the Spirit of the living God, not on
tablets of stone but on tablets
of human hearts.



Scott J. Hafemann:

“Those who minister the gospel are not technicians trained to provide services. They are mediators of the Spirit, who preach Christ in accordance with the Scriptures and embody his character in their own faithful endurance and love for others.”



2 Corinthians 3:4-5

Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.



2 Corinthians 3:6

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



Images of salvation:

- ❖ Captives in Christ's triumphal procession (2:14)
- ❖ Pleasing aroma (2:15)
- ❖ Letter from Jesus (3:2-3)
- ❖ Ministers of a new covenant (3:6)

2 Corinthians 3:7-8

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

2 Corinthians 3:9-11

If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal



New Covenant:

- ❖ Jeremiah 31:31-34
- ❖ Ezekiel 11:14-21
- ❖ Romans 3:21-24; 7:4-6
- ❖ Galatians 3:19-25



2 Corinthians 3:12-13

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.

2 Corinthians 3:14-15

But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.



2 Corinthians 3:16-17

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord,
the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the
Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.



2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



Reflecting Christ:

- ❖ Galatians 5:22-23
- ❖ Ephesians 4:22-24
- ❖ Colossians 3:9-10

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.



John Chrysostom:

“I am a servant. I am but a minister of those who receive the gospel, transacting everything for Another, and for his glory doing what I do.”

What have we learned?

- ❖ God is sovereign over all.
 - ❖ Including our salvation.
 - ❖ Including our suffering.
 - ❖ Including our ministry.
- ❖ God is the source and supply of our lives.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

