



## Today's Message

Date: November 25, 2018  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *A Minister's Résumé*

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? <sup>2</sup> You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> 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.

Introduction: In last Sunday's text (2 Corinthians 2:14-17), Paul laid out the true nature of ministry. Christ vanquished us and now uses us to spread the knowledge of God. The result is that some who hear the message receive it and live, but the rest hear it and are confirmed in their condemnation. Either way, the purposes of God are accomplished. Paul asked, "Who is sufficient for these things (v. 17)?" We find his answer in today's passage. He declares, "Our sufficiency

is from God (3:5).” God accomplishes the work of the ministry through us, bringing salvation and ongoing transformation. He does this in such a way that he gets all the glory.

**Today’s take-home truth: The gospel work that Christ accomplishes through us is spiritual work.**

**I. We can only measure Christ’s work using spiritual standards. 1-3**

- A. He uses godly representatives . . . 1
- B. to effect spiritual transformation. 2-3
  - 1. Christ transforms sinners . . .
  - 2. using human messengers . . .
  - 3. and the power of the Spirit, . . .
  - 4. leaving unmistakable evidence of His work.

**II. We can only accomplish Christ’s work using spiritual means. 4-6**

- A. We draw confidence only from Christ’s calling. 4
- B. We depend only on God’s power. 5
- C. We focus only on the Spirit’s message. 6