

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE; FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-21**

2 Corinthians 12:8-9, *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The **Book of 2 Corinthians** was written by the Apostle Paul in A.D. 60, possibly from Philippi.
- b. We know Paul wrote **1 Corinthians** in Ephesus where he had been engaged in a great ministry.
- c. **1 Corinthians 16:9** says, *For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.*
- d. This indicates that the Apostle Paul was having a difficult time getting the Gospel out to a lost and dying world. It appeared to be a very stressful and busy time for him.
- e. According to **Acts 18:1-18** Paul had organized the Corinthian Church during his second missionary journey.
- f. We do know from 1 Corinthians that *the Corinthian church was a church filled with carnal Christians and babes in Christ.*
- g. Paul wanted to make sure they were not tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, so he sent Titus to Corinth to set things in order. **Titus 1:5**, *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*
- h. Paul and Timothy were together at Ephesus. The two of them waited in Troas for Titus to bring word that everything had been set in order in the Corinthian Church. **2 Corinthians 2:12-13** tells us, *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel and a door was opened unto me of the Lord. I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia*
- i. However, Titus did not come at that time so Paul and Timothy went on to Philippi.
- j. It was there they met Titus who brought word to Paul about the Corinthian Church.
- k. The news was good! The Corinthian's were obeying the things Paul had told them to do in **1 Corinthians**.

- l. Paul sat down in Philippi to write **2 Corinthians**.
- m. In this epistle Paul opens his heart to the Corinthians in a wonderful way. He deals with conditions of ministry in the church.
- n. **1 Corinthians** had dealt with the **conditions and corrections that needed to be made in the local church**.
- o. When a church is not fed the Word of God and the saints are not being grounded in the Word, many devastating things can happen with respect to false doctrine. **Acts 20:28**, *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*
- p. It is my mission at Chesswood Baptist Church to make sure we use all means available to get the Word of God into the heart and life of God's people.
- q. Some major themes in **2 Corinthians** are:
 - 1. *God's goodness is more powerful than Satan's evil.*
 - 2. *Being granted the ability and the privilege to give to God's work is a blessing in itself.*
 - 3. Not all religious teachers are of the Lord.
 - 4. *Not all religious teachers have our best interest in mind.*
 - 5. Words from the righteous are sometimes misunderstood and condemned by the world.
 - 6. *It is ok to boast about Jesus Christ and what He has done for you in your life.*
- r. Let's explore **2 Corinthians** in some detail.

2. INTRODUCTION

Please refer to the February 2, 2020 Morning message for the Introduction.

3. TEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

g. My grace is sufficient for thee.

- 1. **2 Corinthians 12:8-9**, *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- 2. Paul had a thorn in the flesh.
- 3. We get a clue from the book of Galatians although it does not tell us directly what the thorn was. **Galatians 4:15**, *Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.*
- 4. We could possibly conclude that Paul had a vision problem, of course we do not know exactly because the Word of God does not expound on it.
- 5. We do know that it was an irritant to Paul and he spoke to the Lord three times and asked God to remove it.
- 6. The Lord replied, *My grace is sufficient for thee:*
- 7. The Bible says when we are weak; then we are strong in the Lord. **2 Corinthians 12:10**, *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
- 8. When we are ordinary – God can use us. When we think we are extraordinary, we have nothing for God. **Romans 8:8**, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

9. When there is pride in our lives and our heart, then we have nothing for God. **Proverbs 29:23**, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*
10. We must remember that just because the Lord has taught us a little about the Scriptures, we are not equal with Him. He is the head of it all.
11. We are complete in Him. None of us would have a home in Heaven if it was not for His righteousness. He subtracts all of our sins and He gives us His righteousness for our belief. **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: Romans 4:5*, *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
12. *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* – The proper focus was on infirmities – on what the Lord had done.

h. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:10**, *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
2. Paul understood exactly the concept that God was trying to get over to him.
3. We must depend on the Lord. We must depend on what He has instructed us to do and do it to the glory of God.
4. We must not allow any infirmity, reproaches, necessities, any persecution or any distresses to distract us from the main mission and that is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:29**, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 12:2*, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
5. We are to remove our chips and move out and do a job for God. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

i. I am become a fool in glorying.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:11**, *I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.*
2. Paul realizes that he is nothing without the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:10**, *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*
3. When we get down to the end and we have given all, then we too can realize that we are nothing and Jesus Christ is everything.
4. *in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.* – Some might have even defended Paul and said he was really great. **1 Corinthians 15:9**, *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*
5. The only thing that made the apostle Paul great was that he had an experience with the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, and that was

salvation. **Acts 22:14**, *And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.*

6. You and I have to have that same experience. All of us are saved the same way. There are no two or three plans of salvation. Jesus narrowed it down to one way. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* **Acts 4:12**, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
7. Paul knows he has nothing to glory in. He considers himself nothing and Christ is ALL.
8. It reminds me of John the Baptist's statement in **John 3:30**, *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

j. Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:12**, *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*
2. There were certain sign gifts that were given to the apostles to authenticate the Word of God. **Mark 16:20**, *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*
3. The apostles had the gift of healing; they could raise the dead, and spoke in tongues (Languages),
4. Although I cannot find anywhere in Scripture that this was an unknown tongue, it was the ability, without going to school, to speak languages and dialects of other people.
5. Paul was going into Galatia country and there were at least **50 dialects** in that area. Paul could speak them all; he had not studied any of them; it was a supernatural gift that was given.
6. Today, the Lord does not give those kinds of gifts. As a matter of fact, our missionaries on foreign soil spend a lot of time learning the language. They must have translators on many occasions. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10**, *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9: For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10: But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*
7. *the signs of an apostle were wrought among you* – They could identify them as being apostles because of the gift they had.
9. Satan attempts on many occasions, to duplicate the gifts that the apostles had but he is not able to do so in its entirety.
10. Paul does not focus on what happened in Heaven but focuses on getting the Word of God out.
11. Paul was trying to get the people of the Roman Empire to get saved by the Word of God.
12. That is exactly what God tells us to do in the church. We are pilgrims, we are passing through, we are not of this world, and we are a peculiar people zealous of good works. **Hebrews 11:13**, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of*

them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

13. Our mission should be to not focus on the storms in life, but get the Word of God out to a lost and dying world. **Matthew 28:19-20**, *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Luke 14:23*, *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

14. Notice Paul revisits Corinth.

k. Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:13-14**, *For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong. 14: Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you;* and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.
2. Paul was a spiritual father. He had founded this church and had led many to a saving knowledge of Christ.
3. We know there were severe problems in the Corinthian church and Paul says it is possibly his fault that he didn't straighten them out.
4. The entire book of **1 Corinthians** was designed to straighten out the problems in the Corinthian church.
5. **2 Corinthians** indicates that many of those problems had been solved.
6. As a result of that Paul says *the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*
7. God gives us instructions that the aged men are to lead with the proper example and the aged women are to teach the younger women what to do. **Titus 2:2-3**, *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3: The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;* The aforementioned verses are the key to building strong families in America.

l. The more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:15**, *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*
2. Paul says the more love he gives; the less he gets in return.
3. We who are pastors can understand that. We cannot go out to seek the love of people, endeavoring to win popularity contest; we must preach the truth – the whole council of God. **Acts 20:26-27**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*
4. We cannot take the popular approach, but be willing to suffer for Christ and to tell it like it is.
5. The Bible says we are to teach the whole council of God. If we do, some will love us and others will not. But in the final analysis, we must stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:10**, *For we must all appear before the*

judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

6. **We must tell the truth.** I remind you that God says it is pastors who have destroyed His vineyard. **Jeremiah 12:10**, *Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. We must not lie from the pulpit about one's eternal destination.*

m. I caught you with guile.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:16**, *But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.*
2. The Word of God is what will convict the heart.
3. The pastor is not to take on the responsibility of trying to put himself in the place of God. God will take care of business. Jesus said in **Matthew 4:19**, *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The Pastor is the under-shepherd to get the Word of God out. **Ephesians 5:23**, *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 1 Peter 5:1-4, The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4: And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*
5. The Lord uses His Word to convict the heart. Man's word cannot do it. **Isaiah 55:11**, *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*
6. *I caught you with guile.* – None of us are perfect; we all need to go to the foot of the cross.

n. Did Titus make a gain of you?

1. **2 Corinthians 12:17-18**, *Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? 18: I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?*
2. Paul was very clever in his message. He preached the Word of God in simplicity and in truth. **1 Corinthians 2:4**, *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:*
3. He prepared others to carry forth the Gospel Message of our Lord. **2 Timothy 2:2**, *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*
4. I have said many times that we have never been successful until we have taught someone else to take our place. **Philippians 4:9**, *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. 2 Timothy 2:2, And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men,*

who shall be able to teach others also.

5. Titus also carries the message and we have focused on him during a previous message concerning the actions he took.
6. The Corinthians made great gains in the second epistle. They have come a long ways in straightening out their problems; however, they are not completely there yet.
7. We must always continue to focus on the problems that might be manifesting in the local church. **1 Corinthians 11:28**, *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.* **1 Corinthians 11:31**, *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

o. We speak before God in Christ.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:19-20**, *Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? **we speak before God in Christ:*** but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying. **20:** *For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:*
2. Paul is saying everything is to be done for the edifying of the saints once they are saved and born again.
3. He tells them to avoid such things as: debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:
4. Let's examine each of those for a moment.
5. We are to propagate it. Which means it is sound doctrine. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
6. The Church has to be doctrinally sound. If we are not, we are taking care of our own business and not the business of the Church.
7. **The local church is more times than not filled with arguments. I heard a man say several days ago that the Baptist fight too much. "You don't have to attend every argument you are invited to."**
8. There is no reason for divisions to be among us. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
9. *backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:* the local church is no place for gossip. We do not need to run down our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Proverbs 21:23**, **Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.**
10. We are not to whisper; tell others "have you heard..." It is not important.
11. **I learned a long time ago that I have to stay out of other people's business and take care of my own affairs. I received a coin several days ago which speaks of this. "The four-way test of the things we think, say, or do."**
 1. Is it the truth?
 2. Is it fair to all concerned?
 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"
12. **swellings**, - Sometimes believers get so swollen until they hang out of church and won't come.
13. Remember we do not come to church for other people; we go to honour the

Lord.

14. *tumults* – Trouble in the church; the little cliques that cause trouble. These are people who are fostering themselves rather than the things of God.

p. My God will humble me among you.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:21**, *And lest, when I come again, **my God will humble me among you**, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.*
2. The Corinthian church was in a vile city. Probably one of the worst in the entire Roman Empire.
3. This church was a testimony for the Lord in some respects but they had some extreme problems.
4. The Word of God is what straightens out the church.
5. I know the Bible says in **2 Timothy 3:13**, *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*
6. This does not say that the world is getting worse. If men and women are getting saved then the world is just a little bit better.
7. We understand that the things of the world are going to wax worse but those who are saved and born again are on the winning side.
8. There is no unpardonable sin. However, the sin of unbelief can never be forgiven unless a person changes his mind. We spoke of this extensively several Sundays ago entitled, THOU FOOL, THIS NIGHT THY SOUL SHALL BE REQUIRED OF THEE. **Luke 23:34**, *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*
9. We are crucified with Christ. **Galatians 2:20**, ***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***
10. Jesus was here to take away all sin. **John 16:9**, *Of sin, because they believe not on me; **John 1:29**, The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God**, which taketh away **the sin of the world.***
11. There will be many who reject the Lord Jesus Christ, but there will be many that will receive Him as their personal Saviour.
12. We were not put in the world to plant flowers, but to sow the seed of the Word of God.
13. We are just pilgrims just passing through. We are witnesses for the Saviour.
14. The church is a group of people who must recognize that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**, *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*
15. We must reflect Christ in everything we do and everything we say.
16. On sad note, *the interest in the Preserved Word of God has bypassed the local church in this day and time.* **1 Timothy 3:15**, ***But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

17. There are too many internal problems. We are so concerned about emotion, and entertainment, and celebration rather than getting into the Preserved Word of God.
18. We are only cleaned by the Word He has spoken unto us.
Psalms 119:130, The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. John 15:3, Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
19. The Apostle Paul gives us some insight into this church that was in the worse city in the Roman Empire.
20. The church can make a difference when we get the godly people to remove themselves from the world. **1 John 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. We thank God that there is a level playing field and He is not a respecter of persons.
Acts 10:34, Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
- c. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- d. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- e. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- f. Would you please stand?

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