

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 27, 2009

“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 2:16-17

What do we learn from the Apostle Paul about ministry in 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 that will help us persevere when faced with difficulties?

We learned from the Apostle Paul that no matter how gifted we might be as a minister, the stresses, strains, and disappointments of ministry will at times become overwhelming (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).

We also learned that the sufferings that we endure as the captives of Christ in the performance of our ministry is the means by which His triumph over us is put on display (2 Corinthians 2:14).

We also learned that when God is leading us as the captives of Christ in His triumphal procession, we will have a profound and widespread impact (2 Corinthians 2:14-17).

The implied answer to Paul’s question, “Who is adequate for these things?” is “I, the Apostle Paul and those serving alongside of me are adequate for these things.”

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:17, is not talking about his inadequacy or the inadequacy of his companions to do the things he mentioned in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, he is talking about their adequacy to do these very things.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:17, negatively affirmed his adequacy for the things he had outlined in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 by declaring that they, unlike many, were not peddling God’s Word.

The word, “peddle,” (KAPELEUO) means to peddle for profit like a retailer.

After Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:17, negatively affirmed his adequacy, he then concluded the verse by positively affirming his adequacy by declaring that he spoke sincerely as from God in Christ in the sight of God.

May God give us the grace, as the sweet aroma of the knowledge of God and the fragrance of Christ, to persevere in ministry knowing that we, in Christ, are wonderfully adequate for these things.