

**“GOD MAKES US ADEQUATE  
MINISTERS”**

**2 Corinthians 3:1-6**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are brought into the middle of an argument. It's Paul vs. the false teachers, the Judaizers. This group insisted that all live like Jews and follow their customs and laws, cf. **Galatians 2:14**. This is the false gospel which said you must be circumcised and live like a Jew in order to be saved. They argued about who had more credibility, Paul or the Judaizers. It was customary to send a letter of commendation with a person, similar to a reference on a resume, but Paul didn't have this. The false teachers, therefore, claimed Paul had no backing!

## **YOU ARE THE EPISTLE**

How do you measure credibility or effectiveness? The world has a way, but God also has a way. Jesus said, "...**For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God**", **Luke 16:15**. "**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD**", **Isaiah 55:8**. Even though Paul was highly trained in Judaism, everything changed after he met Jesus!

Paul told the Corinthians that *they* were his epistle. (An epistle is a letter, what people see and read). He had seen the Corinthians change by the power of the Holy Spirit. They were walking, talking letters for all to see and hear. They were displays of what Jesus could do in a life! It was what God did through a willing vessel, Paul. Paul said that this in itself was the proof of his credibility! It was discipleship in action, proof that what Paul was doing was in line with God's purposes.

## **SUFFICIENCY OF GOD**

Paul rested in the fact that God is our sufficiency. No letter or certificate will help, but only the supernatural power of God! Even Jesus was questioned about his credentials throughout His ministry. It is God that makes us adequate, capable ministers!

When comparing ministers of the past, Charles Spurgeon was a very bright preacher who was quite eloquent. A contemporary in the U.S., D.L. Moody, was not that at all. He was not highly educated, and was not a great speaker, yet the effects of his life for Christ were amazing. He preached and ministered to both union and confederate soldiers at the Civil War battlefronts. He started four Bible schools, and many were saved through him. He was a plain man who spoke the plain gospel! Revivalist Henry Varley of Dublin said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man completely consecrated to Him". D.L. Moody decided, "By God's help, I aim to be that man".

## **CONSIDER**

Feeling inadequate as a witness for Jesus? Most Christians don't have theological degrees, but that doesn't mean that you can't share your testimony and what God has shown you in His Word! God is able if we give ourselves to Him! We are then equipped by the power of God for the work of the ministry! Allow Him to work through you and He will!  
*(Scripture references are from NKJV).*

## **PRAY .....**

- \* Pray for the mission trip to Serbia.
- \* That we would follow the Lord's leading in the August outreach at Jefferson Park in Canandaigua.
- \* That God's Spirit would refresh the pastors at our East Coast Pastors' conference in September.