

6 - SERVANTS OF THE NEW COVENANT (2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6)

I. A Question of Introduction (2 Corinthians 3:1-3)

A. The Need for Letters of Recommendation (2 Corinthians 3:1)

- Paul questions whether he needs letters of introduction to present to them.

B. Their Testimony (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

1. Of Paul's Work (2 Corinthians 3:2)

- Paul points out that they are a testimony of his work.

2. Of Christ's Work (2 Corinthians 3:3)

- Paul points out that they are also the testimony of Christ's work in their lives.

II. Ministers of the New Covenant (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

A. Paul's Trust (2 Corinthians 3:4)

- Paul's confidence was based on the fact that it is God who makes us competent.

B. Paul's Insufficiency (2 Corinthians 3:5a)

- Paul recognized that in and of himself that he was not competent.

C. The Sufficiency of God (2 Corinthians 3:5b)

- Paul recognized that only God could empower him for the work.

Scripture Reading: John 15:5

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

D. Equipped to be Ministers (2 Corinthians 3:6)

1. Competent to be Ministers (2 Corinthians 3:6a)

- God is the one who enables and empowers us to be ministers.

2. The Basis of the Ministry (2 Corinthians 3:6b)

- We have been made ministers of the new covenant.

3. The Nature of True Ministry (2 Corinthians 3:6c)

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

- It is a ministry of God's grace through the Holy Spirit, not the Law.