



“Able Ministers”

How do we recognize them?
II Corinthians 2:12-17

They have uncommon:

I. Credibility – “Do we...commend ourselves” (vs. 1-2)

Because of their:

- A. Investment** – “need we...epistles of commendation to you”
- B. Independence** – “or letters of commendation from you”
- C. Impact** – “Ye are our epistle... known and read of all men”

II. Confidence - “manifestly declared to be the epistle” (v. 3)

Because of the:

- A. Scripture** – “the epistle of Christ ministered by us”
- B. Spirit** – “not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God”
- C. Sanctification** – “but in the fleshly tables of the heart”

III. Credentials – “Who also has made us able ministers” (vs. 4-6)

Because of a certain:

- A. Christ** - “such trust have we through Christ to Godward”
- B. Covenant**– “ministers of the new testament ”
- C. Conscience** – “the spirit gives life”

Sentence Sermon

“An able minister is one who impacts the lives of others through acts of service done in the power of the Spirit.”

Additional Verses

- *I Corinthians 9:1-9*
- *Jeremiah 31:31-33*
- *Ezek. 11:19; 36:26-27*
- *I Timothy 1:12*
- *Hebrews 7:22; 8:7-13*
- *II Corinthians 3:14*
- *Romans 6:14-15*
- *Matthew 12:34*
- *I Corinthians 2:1-5*
- *II Corinthians 5:18-20*
- *Romans 7:6*

Questions to Ponder

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who are the central characters of the passage?
3. Why did Paul think that he did not need to “commend” himself again?
4. What would a letter of commendation for Paul sound if you read it?
5. How would all men be able to read the epistle written in Paul’s heart?
6. What does it mean for the Spirit to write in fleshly tables of the heart?
7. What would a discussion about “sufficiency” include?
8. What all goes in to making a minister an able minister?
9. How does the spirit of the law give life while the letter brings death?
10. What’s the difference between O.T. saints and N.T. Christians?