

## **A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament**

2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness  
(II Tim 3:16)

### **II Corinthians: Man's weakness in ministry only highlights God's strength and ability to accomplish His purposes.**

#### **I. Basics of godly ministry: sharing Christ! 1:2- 2:17**

- A. God's plan for expanding His kingdom is designed for real people 1:3-7
- B. Our weaknesses suit God's plan perfectly 1:8-11
- C. Keys to confidence in ministry: simplicity and focus 1:12-2:17
  - 1. the problem in Corinth pointed out the need to depend on God not changing circumstances 1:18-2:2
  - 2. the problem in Corinth pointed out the strength of love to deal with real problems 2:3-11
  - 3. the problem in Corinth pointed out how God uses all circumstances to further His work 2:12-17

#### **II. All ministry is empowered by the ministry of the Spirit, the transformer. 3:1-4:15 (see also Jn 14:16-18)**

- A. It is the sufficiency of the Spirit that makes ministry effective 3:1-11
- B. It is the sufficiency of the Spirit that gives us boldness to expect transformation 3:12-18
- C. It is the sufficiency of the Spirit that gives us courage to live with integrity 4:1-15
  - 1. Ministry is God's delivery system and requires us to leave our secret lives of shame and openly live the truth 4:1-6
  - 2. Our frailty magnifies Christ when we follow Him 4:7-15

#### **III. Our ministry of transforming grace 4:16-5:21**

- A. We live in hope in the eternal things of God 4:16-5:8
- B. We live in integrity before God and man 5:9-13
- C. We are motivated by the love of Christ 5:14-15
- D. We are spiritually focused as new creations in Christ 5:16-17
- E. We are living as ambassadors of God 5:18-21

#### **IV. Avoiding the pitfalls they bring on themselves 6:1-9:15**

- A. The urgency of a daily walk with God 6:1-2
- B. Paul's ministry was not a cause for their failures 6:3-10
- C. Personal choices have stopped their progress 6:11-7:1
- D. But open hearts can produce a godly sorrow that leads them to repentance 7:2-16
- E. The importance of excellence in giving 8:1-9:15
  - other virtues no substitute for generosity 8:1-7
  - example of Jesus 8:8-9
  - importance of making good on your plans to give 8:10-9:5
  - cheerfully giving as followers of a giving God 9:6-15

#### **V. Avoiding the problems brought on by false teachers 10:1-13:10**

- A. Spiritual warfare for control of their mind 10:1-6
- B. In the end it is the Lord who affirms those who serve 10:7-18

- C. No need for more than the simplicity of Christ 11:1-4
- D. False teachers may appear righteous but are satanic 11:5-15
- E. Paul's strength made perfect in his weakness 11:16-12:10
- F. The credibility of the apostolic ministry 12:11-13:10