Introduction

Have you ever been given a responsibility that was bigger than what you thought you could handle?

All of us will experience times in life when we feel inadequate.

Paul did too – when he thought about the responsibility he had been given as an apostle.

Who is equal to such a task?

In II Corinthians 2:12-3:6, Paul gives us four reasons to be confident.

I. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF OUR MINISTRY.
   VERSES 12-16

   God opened a door for ministry at Troas, but Paul had no peace of mind.

   Paul is torn. What should he do?

   “Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?”

   II Corinthians 11:28-29

   The biggest burden Paul carried was his concern for all the churches.
Paul praises God for two things.

1. God always leads us in triumph in Christ.
   Paul compares the irresistible advance of the gospel to a Roman triumphal procession.
   We are captives of Christ. We are trophies of his grace.

2. Through us, God spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ.
   We are the aroma of Christ – by our life and by our words.
   It is an awesome responsibility.

Who is equal to such a task?
No one.
God is the one who makes us adequate.
We are the vessel. God is the source.

II. GOD IS THE JUDGE OF OUR MINISTRY.
   VERSE 17

   Whom are we trying to please?
   In Paul’s day, there were many who preached the word of God for profit.
   He describes them as peddlers.
   To survive in the market a peddler must adapt to the market and give people what they want to hear.

Paul’s concern was not with his popularity. His concern was pleasing God.
One of the great dangers in the church today is the temptation to water down the message and give people what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

Conclusion

God uses weak human vessels to accomplish his work.
If you don’t feel adequate, that’s a good thing.
God is the one who leads us in triumph.
God is the one who opens doors for ministry.
God is the one who makes his Son known through us.
God is the one we strive to please.