

## The Government of the Living Spirit II Corinthians 3:1-18

All of our qualification and accreditation, all of our fitness and "enough-ness" before God (and others) comes from the Living Spirit of God within us! He writes a resume of Divine accomplishments upon our human spirits. He etches His Godly character, pens His eternal words into our human lives. He breathes the saving life of His Son into our beingness. All to say... our Deliverer, our Teacher, our Subject, our Sufficiency is never a piece of chiseled stone or a page out of a holy book. It is not anything EXTERNAL to us - but an ever present Person, the Living Spirit of God Himself within us.

In II Corinthians 3, Paul is declaring the surpassing glory of this new covenant arrangement (Spirit over letter, righteousness over condemnation, Jesus over Moses) to all who have ears to hear. Both "arrangements" (covenants) had "glory" - one (the old) had a reflective, but "fading" glory, the other (the new) has a radiant, unfading glory. Both worked for the purposes God intended - one (the old) defines, exposes, and condemns, the other (the new) justifies, enlivens, and liberates. One (the old) may temporarily conform behavior, the other (the new) transforms persons.

Thus, Paul makes it clear that none of our "adequacy" or fitness for living the life pleasing to God ever come out of ourselves, but only out of God and His Spirit living within us. Likewise, none of our "confidence" in ministry before our fellow man is ever developed by us (over time or by performance). We are never the source of "good works" -the only "good works" are God's works! We can never purchase such "adequacy" or "confidence" with human currency. Christian "fitness" is never self-acquired or self-sustained - we must be made "cross-fit" by the saving and sustaining activity of Christ alone.

In Him, and out of Him, we have what it takes. Only in Him, and out of Him, do we have what it takes. It must become clear to us that all our "credentials" come from the Living Spirit of God within us. The All-Sufficient One alone makes us sufficient through the gift of Himself. He is the strength of His own kingdom. And He is enough!

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# Greetings

I can't remember the article (book? magazine?) I was reading a few weeks ago that was celebrating modern "sacred" values - things like radical individualism, unsatiable consumerism, unrealistic romanticism, and unbridled sensualism. So I can't cite or footnote the author accordingly, but I so remember how it saddened and grieved my heart.

I hate it for the world - people without any "connection" to absolute holy truth - but I am not surprised. With darkened minds and blinded eyes, any kind of discernment is hard to come by. The wreckage and ruin of such pursuits is as old as the garden of Eden and terribly painful to watch unfold before our present tense eyes. To me, it proves there is a God, this is my Father's world, and there is divine meaning to it all - there is no other reason for anything to work and any one to survive it all.

What keeps me awake some nights is that the children of God, the siblings of Christ, the human containers of the Living Spirit all too often celebrate and pursue the same. We are Esau all over again - selling our full and perfect eternal birthrights for a deficient and defiling bowl of degrading "goods". Nothing less than a full immersion into the Living Christ and His absolute eternal values will deliver us. We were not made to be at home in anything here today and gone tomorrow. Why not abandon to Him and Him alone? Let's discover whether or not He is enough.

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

4-6 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)  
8 Alachua Study  
18-20 Vero Beach, FL (772-563-0430)  
29 Ocala study

### NOVEMBER

8-10 Calais, ME (207-454-2579)

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Gainesville, Florida



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\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)



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