

LESSON
10

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

SATURDAY – Authentic Christian Ministry

Acts of the Apostles, p. 328

The **conversion of sinners** and **their sanctification through the truth** is the strongest proof a minister can have that God has called him to the ministry. The evidence of his apostleship is written upon the hearts of those converted, and is witnessed to by their renewed lives. **Christ is formed within, the hope of glory**. A minister is greatly strengthened by these seals of his ministry.

SUNDAY – Fruits of an Authentic Ministry

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-9. In what sense can we be an epistle of Christ?

A: The testimony of the Christians of the Corinthian church was Paul's letter of recommendation.

2 Corinthians 3:1-3

¹Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? or need we, as do some, epistles of commendation to you or from you?²Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, **known and read of all men**; ³**being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables that are hearts of flesh.

MONDAY – Suffering and Glory

2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. Make a list of Paul's sufferings. How did he endure his sufferings?

A: Tribulation, perplexity, persecution, dejection, and life-threatening.

Paul did not allow himself to be distressed and did not become discouraged because he believed in the promise of resurrection.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves;⁸we are **pressed on every side**, yet **not straitened**; **perplexed**, yet **not unto despair** ; ⁹**pursued**, yet **not forsaken**; **smitten down**, yet **not destroyed**; ¹⁰always bearing about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body.¹¹For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that **the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

TUESDAY – Christ-focused Ministry of Reconciliation

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-15. How does this passage demonstrate that Paul's ministry is Christ-centered?

A: Paul was embarrassed by the gift conveyed by the death of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14, 15

¹⁴For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died;¹⁵and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.

TUESDAY – Christ-focused Ministry of Reconciliation

4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 1:19-23; Ephesians 2:13-16. What did Paul mean by “ministry of reconciliation”?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. ¹⁸But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and **gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation**; ¹⁹to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. ²¹Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the **righteousness of God in him.**

TUESDAY – Christ-focused Ministry of Reconciliation

4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 1:19-23; Ephesians 2:13-16. What did Paul mean by “ministry of reconciliation”?

A: Justification by faith and sanctification. Faith and works go together.

Colossians 1:19-22; 26-27

¹⁹For it was the good pleasure of the Father that in him should all the fulness dwell; ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens.²¹And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, ²²yet now **hath he reconciled** in the body of his flesh through death, to present you **holy and without blemish and unproveable** before him: ²⁶even the mystery which hath been hid for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints, ²⁷to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:** ²⁸whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ;**

WEDNESDAY – Call to Holiness

5. Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1. According to this passage, what does a holy life look like?

A: By co-operating with God, we are distinguished from the ungodly.

2 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 18

¹⁴**Be not unequally yoked** with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁷Wherefore **Come ye out from among them**, and **be ye separate**, saith the Lord, And **touch no unclean thing**; And I will receive you, ¹⁸And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

THURSDAY – Comfort and Joy

6. What are Paul's feelings upon hearing that the Corinthians had repented?

A: He felt joy, comfort and love.

2 Corinthians 7:4

⁴Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is **my glorying** on your behalf: **I am filled with comfort**, I **overflow with joy** in all our affliction.