

**Coming Back from Insufficiency**  
**2 Corinthians 3:1-18, Pew Bible p. 965**  
**September 4, 2022**

**I. Tablets of Stone (V. 1-6)**

A. Christian ministry isn't good enough when it impresses enough people. It is good enough when it changes lost people.

B. Christian people aren't good enough because of what they do for God; they have been made righteous because of what God has done for them.

C. Christian growth doesn't mean trying harder but trusting in the Holy Spirit better.

**II. Tablets of Human Hearts (V. 7-18)**

A. Christian ministry isn't good enough because it makes people behave, but because it raises people from death to life.

B. Christian people aren't good enough because they make good choices; they have been made righteous because of the Holy Spirit healing their blindness.

C. Christian growth doesn't mean improved morality; it means having a new heart.

## **Group Discussion Questions**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-18.
2. Do Christian leaders deserve the authority they have? How do you know? How did Paul defend his authority in verse 1-3?
3. Have you ever felt insufficient? Why? How can you use that to drive you to trusting God more?
4. How can verses 4-6 both say Christians are not sufficient and yet sufficient in the same paragraph? What does that tell us about God and how He uses believers in ministry?
5. What is the difference between how believers interacted with the law of God in the Old Testament versus how they interact with the law of God in the New Testament, according to verses 6-11? What does that mean about your ability to grow as a Christian?
6. Have you ever felt stuck in your faith? Why? What does verse 18 say about God's work in your life? How can you better enjoy the benefits of that promise?
7. Pray for our church, that God would restore church members struggling with their own insufficiency to know the grace of God. Consider attending the church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register at the church website at [www.apollobaptist.org](http://www.apollobaptist.org).

## **Church Bible Reading Plan**

Numbers 11-13

September Memory Verses: Numbers 16:46-50

***Ephesians 1:11-14***

*<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

**BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:**

If you have not done so already, please register from the [www.apollobaptist.org](http://www.apollobaptist.org) home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 12/25/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

**Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:**

- PRAYING for the new people going through our Discover Apollo class right now.

**Pray for Our Church Family Needs:**

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:  
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, Jules S. in Thailand, and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona,
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus  
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:  
Louise R. (husband), Ed G. & family (mother), family of Phyllis W., Paul W. & family (aunt), family of Joan S., Anne W.-B. & family (husband), Sherri O. (uncle), and Barbara K. (husband)
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:  
Michelle L. (health issues), Leon V. (chemo & other health issues), Debbie B. (radiation treatments), Twila D. (stroke), Wayne D. (declining health), Ken & Darlene R. (health issues), John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues), Debbie P. (health issues), Ann C.-W. (health issues), Michelle La (health issues), Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery), and Mary R. (transplant recovery)
- Others that you are aware of