

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns supporting a stone entablature. A large tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the left. The sky is clear blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

“My Grace Is Sufficient”
2 Corinthians 11:16 – 12:13

Curt Deming
Melbourne Community Church
September 29, 2019

Broad outline of 2 Corinthians :

- ❖ 1:1 – 7:1 = Paul's defense of his ministry
- ❖ 7:1 – 9:15 = Application to the repentant at Corinth
- ❖ 10:1 – 13:10 = Application to the unrepentant at Corinth



What will we learn?

- ❖ Boasting is the language of fools.
- ❖ The Lord's grace is sufficient.
- ❖ Our weakness offers an opportunity to display God's power.
- ❖ Bonus: How to lead like Jesus?



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

BLACK SEA

Spain (Tarshish?)

Illyricum

Moesia

Armenia

Italy

• ROME

Thrace

Pontus

Roman Empire

Furthest extent in years 8 to 115 A.D.

Macedonia

Cappadocia

Africa

Achia

Asia Minor

Galatia

SYRIAN ANTIOCH

Euphrates River

Syria

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea (Arabia)

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nile River

RED SEA

Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.



2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- ❖ Suffering brings comfort from God.
- ❖ Suffering produces “patient endurance.”
- ❖ Suffering and comfort equip us for ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:14

- ❖ Salvation starts with God, and it includes every person of the Trinity.
- ❖ God's people should be faithful.
- ❖ Disciples of Jesus should lead like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:12 - 4:6

- ❖ God is sovereign over all.
 - ❖ Including our salvation.
 - ❖ Including our suffering.
 - ❖ Including our ministry.
- ❖ God is the source and supply of our lives.

2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

- ❖ The gospel message is all important, the messengers not so much.
- ❖ Everything in this life is fleeting, but the blessings of heaven are eternal.
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is already / not yet here.

2 Corinthians 5:11 – 7:1

- ❖ At the cross, Jesus claimed us completely.
- ❖ Jesus has commissioned us as his ambassadors.
- ❖ We persevere through challenges and serve his way.

2 Corinthians 7:2 – 8:15

- ❖ God comforts the downcast.
- ❖ Godly sorrow differs from worldly sorrow.
- ❖ Our response to correction can either prove or disprove our faith.
- ❖ Christ's followers are called to be generous.

2 Corinthians 8:16 – 9:15

- ❖ We should be careful to guard our reputation.
- ❖ The principle of sowing and reaping applies to financial decisions.
- ❖ A generous life is empowered by God, it enriches both the giver and the receiver, and it glorifies God.

2 Corinthians 10:1 - 11:15

- ❖ God's approval > everyone else's approval
- ❖ Substance > style
- ❖ Satan and his team are liars.

2 Corinthians 10:1 - 11:15

Bonus:

- ❖ What is meekness? It is the patience and humility modeled by Jesus.
- ❖ How do we take captive every thought? Measure it against Scripture.

2 Corinthians 11:16-17

I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool.
But if you do, then tolerate me just as you
would a fool, so that I may do a little
boasting. In this self-confident boasting I am
not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool.

2 Corinthians 11:18-19

Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise!

2 Corinthians 11:20-21

In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face. To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!



False teachers:

- ❖ Enslave you
- ❖ Exploit you
- ❖ Take advantage of you
- ❖ Put on airs
- ❖ Slap you in the face

2 Corinthians 11:21-22

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast about. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

2 Corinthians 11:23-24

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.



2 Corinthians 11:25

Three times I was beaten with rods, once
I was pelted with stones, three times I was
shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day
in the open sea,

2 Corinthians 11:26

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.



2 Corinthians 11:27

I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.



2 Corinthians 11:28-29

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?



Lead like Jesus:

- ❖ Accept responsibility.
- ❖ Serve.
- ❖ Sacrifice.



2 Corinthians 11:30-31

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.



Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities,
he made a public spectacle of them,
triumphing over them by the cross.

2 Corinthians 11:32-33

In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

2 Corinthians 12:1-2

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows.

2 Corinthians 12:3-5

And I know that this man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows — was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12:6

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say,



2 Corinthians 12:7

or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Paul's thorn in the flesh?

- ❖ Persecution?
- ❖ Inner struggle?
- ❖ Physical illness?
 - ❖ Epilepsy?
 - ❖ Ophthalmia?



2 Corinthians 12:10

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.
For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The background of the slide features a photograph of a classical building with several tall, fluted columns supporting a pediment. To the left, a large tree with green and brown leaves is visible. The overall scene is somewhat desaturated and has a grainy texture.

Thomas a Kempis:

“It is good that we sometimes have griefs and adversities, for they drive a man to behold himself and to see that he is here but as in exile, and to learn thereby that he ought not put his trust in any worldly thing.”



2 Corinthians 12:11

I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing.

2 Corinthians 12:12-13

I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!



What have we learned?

- ❖ Boasting is the language of fools.
- ❖ The Lord's grace is sufficient.
- ❖ Our weakness offers an opportunity to display God's power.
- ❖ Bonus: How to lead like Jesus?



Lead like Jesus:

- ❖ Accept responsibility.
- ❖ Serve.
- ❖ Sacrifice.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Benefits of generosity:

- ❖ Reap generously
- ❖ Abundant blessings
- ❖ Having all you need
- ❖ Abound in every good work
- ❖ Supply and increase
- ❖ Enlarge the harvest
- ❖ Enriched in every way
- ❖ Thanksgiving to God
- ❖ Others will praise God
- ❖ Receivers will pray for you

Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal