

Grace Unraveled  
A Series in 2 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians 1:1-2

C.K. Barrett in his commentary on 2 Corinthians said, “Theologically driven passion for the purity of God’s people” encapsulates the motivation behind the writing we call 2 Corinthians. This letter represents “theology in the flesh.” Paul reminds us that no matter how educated, ritualistic, or charismatic we might be, God’s grace is sufficient for salvation and the Christian life.

1. 2 Corinthians applies to our \_\_\_\_\_ environment
  - A. Their society stressed \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Their society stressed \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Their society stressed \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Their society stressed \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Their society stressed \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2 Corinthians applies to our \_\_\_\_\_ environment
  - A. False \_\_\_\_\_ were influential
  - B. False \_\_\_\_\_ were misleading
3. 2 Corinthians applies to our \_\_\_\_\_ environment
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ is Paul
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the church
  - C. The \_\_\_\_\_ is good news

This letter to the church serves as a reminder that what we ultimately need in life to be profoundly happy is not more scientific discovery or celebrations of the self, but an increasing experience of God’s grace and peace in every area of our lives. We need to grow in the gospel of Jesus and labor in this world (with Paul) on behalf of that gospel.

Reflection

Reconsider the culture of the first century city of Corinth. In what ways has society influenced your understanding of the gospel and the church that is called to proclaim it? Do we inadvertently bring into the church the priorities and prizes of the culture? Are there ways in which people use the church to accomplish their cultural goals? How should these practices be addressed? If the pastor addresses them, how does the church respond? What comes to mind when Paul calls us saints?