



A Letter of Grace

2 Corinthians

The Triumphal Procession
(2:12-17)

1

Introduction

- Paul as unique figure in the New Testament record
- The level of autobiographical material far beyond that of the other Apostles
 - His conversion to following Jesus after initial persecution of the church
 - His call as Apostle to the Gentiles
 - The degree of personal suffering beyond what we know of the other apostles
- What perspectives/theology fueled his love and perseverance?

2

A Longing for His Brother (12-13)



3

A Longing for His Brother (12-13)

When I came to Troas to preach *the gospel of Christ*,
 even though a door was opened for me in the Lord,
 my spirit was *not at rest*
because I did not find my brother Titus there.

So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia. (1:8-9/7:5-7)

4

Spreading the Aroma of Christ (14-16)

But thanks be to God,
 who in Christ always leads us in *triumphal procession*,
 and through us spreads
 the *fragrance of the knowledge of him* everywhere.

For we are *the aroma of Christ* to God
 among those who are being *saved*
 and among those who are *perishing*,
 to one a fragrance from *death* to death,
 to the other a fragrance from *life* to life.

Who is sufficient for these things? (3:5-6)

5

Commissioned Servants of God (17)

For we are not, like so many,
peddlers of God's word,
 but as men of *sincerity*,
 as *commissioned* by God,
 in the *sight* of God
 we speak in Christ.

6

Application

- Paul as a *paradigm for perseverance* and faith in the face of the most extreme circumstances
 - People find many reasons to abandon the Christian faith and/or Christian ministry - personal suffering, suffering in the world, betrayal and abandonment of friends, corruption, abuse, intellectual challenges, etc.
 - Much apostasy is a result of false perceptions of what Christianity claims or offers
 - A resurrection-inspired view of the world that doesn't change statistics, but gives hope for the age to come
- The need to keep the Gospel pure of things which undermine it

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Application

- The joy a Christian congregation can bring to the leaders as they walk in the truth - Philippians 2:2/Hebrews 13:17/3 John 4
- Is the good news of Christ and the lives of those who live it out life or death to you?

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