**Defining Success in Ministry**

2 Corinthians 3

A successful ministry:

1. Has the right kind of recommendation (2Cor. 3:1-3)
2. Puts no confidence in the flesh (2Cor. 3:4-6) Ref. Phil. 3:1-8
3. Three insights into the futility of putting confidence in the flesh.
* When we focus on human achievement, we lose sight of divine enablement.
* Emphasis on self confidence allows pride to sneak in.
* By relying on promotion and marketing of ministry we count on fleshly means to accomplish spiritual ends.
1. Contrast to works of the flesh is the work of the Spirit (2Cor. 3:6,8,17,18)
2. Is Transparent (2Cor. 3:13-18) Ref: 1Thess. 2:3-8
3. Discoveries from 2 Cor. 3
4. While the world says success is about human achievement; God says its about the work of the Spirit of God in hearts and lives. – A successful ministry has the right kind of recommendation.
5. While the world relies of promotion and advertisement; God says you cannot rely on fleshly means to accomplish spiritual ends. – A successful ministry puts no confidence in the flesh.
6. While the world wears masks to cover up weaknesses; God says to take them off so as to put His grace and power on display. – A successful ministry is transparent.

Next step (next week) – Read through 2 Corinthians 3 x during the week.