



Sunday Morning Message for September 24, 2017 by Ray Reynolds

Saints Can Find Hope In Commendation (II Corinthians 3)

Introduction: The church in Corinth had many problems. Paul wrote at least four letters to this church family. I & II Corinthians are only part of that correspondence. However, the second letter in our New Testament reveals that the first letter was well received. The “saints” of God in Corinth realized that not all hope was lost. In this second letter, we can see several things that gave the church hope. The third chapter is about giving praise where it is due. Paul reveals that any heart can change when it has been touched by God. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Commend Those Who Change (vs.1-6)

- They have been spared of God’s wrath (**Psalm 89:32-33**).
- They have been given life (**John 16:13-15**).
- They have been impacted by the gospel (**I Thessalonians 1:4-5**).
- They have confessed their sin (**II Timothy 2:19**).

II. Commend Those Who Grow (vs.7-11)

- Our church family helps us grow spiritually (**Acts 14:21-22**).
- Our faith helps us grow spiritually (**I Corinthians 3:5-9**).
- Our prayer life helps us grow spiritually (**I Thessalonians 5:17**).
- Our Bible study helps us grow spiritually (**I Peter 2:2**).

III. Commend Those Who Transformed (vs.12-18)

- Transformation begins when we are born again (**John 3:3, 5**).
- Transformation takes root when we renew our thinking (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- Transformation continues when we see our potential (**Philippians 1:6**).
- Transformation ends when we are taken to Heaven (**Revelation 2:10**).

Conclusion: Change, growth, and transformation modify our focus into the right direction. Christ "died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the One who died for them and was raised" (**II Corinthians 5:15**). Do you have hope? Hope only comes from "the God of all comfort." Are you ready to be filled with hope? The Lord wants to inspire and empower you to become a minister of reconciliation, a bringer of hope, and a peacemaker. Will you share hope with others?