

Who Is Adequate For These Things?

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PROFOUND — The likes of you and me being called “the children of God.”

AMAZING — The great depths to which God Himself plunged in His love for us.

AUGUST — Coming into the glorious presence of an incomparable God — fellowship!

My assessment of my service to Christ must never be regarded as drudgery, small, or meaningless. Our approach to worshipping together must never spiral downward to the extent that it becomes stale, listless, uninviting, and, worst of all, boring! The more one thinks about it, the more astounding and overwhelming service and worship should be in our minds. May we never cease marveling over what God has done and continues to do for us! He saved us — and that is a **“Wow!”** beyond anything we can comprehend. Even more, He promises to come to our aid when we are tempted (Heb. 2:18; 4:15-16) and ... He can do *“exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think”* (Eph. 3:20).

Paul delves into near speechlessness in his second preserved epistle to the Corinthians. He says:

“But thanks be to God, Who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma of death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life, and who is adequate for these things?” (2:14-16).

In order that the Corinthians will not conclude that Paul is boasting in himself, he further explains, *“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God”* (3:4-5). Our adequacy is no less. All that I am, all that I have learned, all that I have served in His kingdom, all of it is because of Him. “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen!” (Romans 11:36).

PREACHERS AND TEACHERS — At times, I feel woefully inadequate for the task. My greatest fear is to bore people with the greatest and most exciting message in the world. The challenge also is to be balanced in my declaration of “the whole purpose of God”(Acts 20:27). I want to do everything within my power as a student of the Word and as an instructor to solicit a response that pleases our heavenly Father. That means attempting to excel in persuasion of others (2 Corinthians 5:11).

May the Lord provide the preacher and teacher of truth with a sufficient passion for the task and an ability to display the serious nature of this message to those who listen. I am still amused when men publicly pray for the preacher to have “a ready recollection of the things he has prepared.” Of course, as I get older, the recollection of the thoughts is becoming even more important to me! Sometimes, I literally sit on the pew before preaching wondering how I am going to accomplish this awesome task. When I feel weak or incapable, I simply ask God to help me and give me strength. I place my confidence in Him.

ELDERS — How overwhelming is the God-given responsibility toward the flock. Each sheep is precious and one for whom the elder will give account (Heb. 13:17). Wolves must be watched and thwarted in their savage attempts to do harm (Acts 20:28-30). The high calling must be realized *“...proving to be examples to the flock”* (1 Pet. 5:3). For a job well done, an *“unfading crown of glory”* is promised (5:4). Dependence through prayer is essential for the successful completion of the task.

WORSHIPPERS — Who can say, “I’ve always given worship the whole heart that it deserves”? My attempts at praise seem woefully weak at times

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