

What is the purpose of the church?

This Ministry  
2 Cor. 2:14-3:18

- Intro: Paul speaks of certain relationships affecting believers which in turn have their effect on the world - in connection with "this ministry".

THE MINISTER

Cf. Eph. 4:11-16 to show that what relates to the pastor relates as well to the people.

I. What we are to God (2 Cor. 2:15)  
- "a sweet savour of Christ".

FOUNDA-TION

See GK word is εὐωδία, that which smells well. Only elsewhere: Eph. 5:2; Phil. 4:18.  
It is that which pleases God, the idea that God smells the odor and is satisfied.

Cf. Gen. 8:21; Ex. 29:18; Lev. 1:9, 13, 17.

2 Cor 2:15 is an explanation of 2:14. The picture is of a triumphal procession in which God is the captor + Paul is the captive. As incense bearers scattered the aroma of perfume, so Paul scattered the knowledge of God through the recognition of himself as a bond-slave. Always a sacrifice - Cf. Rom. 12:1, 2  
a slave becomes a savour. 2 Cor. 5:9.

Cf. Esodias, Phil. 4:2 - What a contradiction of the name!

THE MINISTRY

II. What the people of God are: "epistles...  
"Known and read of all men" (2 Cor. 3:2).

EVALUA-TION

Epistles of commendation. Cf. Acts 15:25 ff; 18:27; 1 Cor 16:10; Rom. 16:1; Col. 4:10; 2 Cor 8:22 ff.

This epistle was written in the hearts of men by the Spirit of God.

Christ is using us to write His message to the world upon the hearts of men.

The people with whom we work reflect the true nature of our work.

Who is sufficient (2:16)? "Our sufficiency is of God" (3:5). GK:  $\dot{\iota}\kappa\alpha\nu\acute{o}\tau\eta\varsigma$ , only here in NT, meaning to equip one with adequate power to perform certain duties (Thayer, p. 300). The verb,  $\dot{\iota}\kappa\alpha\nu\acute{o}\omega$ , is in 2 Cor. 3:6; Col. 1:12. The adj.,  $\dot{\iota}\kappa\alpha\nu\acute{o}\varsigma$ , in 2 Cor. 3:5, means enough, adequate.

THE MISSION

III.

What our goal is to be: "changed into the same image... commending ourselves to every man's conscience" (2 Cor. 3:18; 4:2).

OCCUPATION

"Image" -  $\epsilon\iota\kappa\omicron\nu\alpha$  - Thayer: representation and manifestation (p. 175).

"By manifestation of the truth" - the means of our metamorphosis.

IV.