A Ministry Like Paul's

Ken Chapman · 2 Corinthians 4:1–2

INTRODUCTION

- The term minister simply means a servant. And ministry is simply a service.
- A good working definition of the biblical word ministry is a service offered to God and to others in God's name.
- If you're a Christian, a fully engaged New Testament Christian, that you're a minister, and that you have a ministry.

1 Paul's Ministry Was Prioritized

1 Corinthians 2:1–5; Acts 14:11–12

- For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- Paul is not apologizing for his lack of ability to communicate God's word.
- I came to you intentionally without power of public speaking. Because I didn't want the focus to be about me. I wanted it to be about Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- To Paul, Jesus Christ and His gospel was everything. And so Paul said, Don't make it about me. Make it about him.
- If that person gets up dry as dust, but preaches the word of God, that they did their job.

2 His Ministry and Ours Is Triumphant

2 Corinthians 2:12–16

- Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of his knowledge in every place.
- As a minister, our job is just to diffuse the fragrance of Christ.
- That's a sweet smell in the nostrils of those who hear it, believe it, obey it, and are saved by it. But it's the stench of death to those who reject it.
- The exact same aroma, the exact same scent, but a very different response.
- If you're living the Christian life, if you're engaged in your service to Christ and to others in his name, you're triumphant.
- You win. Because God and Christ Jesus win, and you're on their side.

3 His Ministry Was a Resilient Ministry

2 Corinthians 4:1–2; 2 Corinthians 1:12

- Since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.
- It doesn't matter what somebody else might do to us, we don't give up, Paul says.

- We have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully.
- The testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity.
- Paul was saying, what you see is what you get. There was no trickery.
- There was no conniving or scheming. We were just preaching the gospel.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And so today, when you go out to lunch, somebody asks you, what do you do? And proudly say, I'm a minister.**

MY NOTES