

Monument Leadership Institute

*By Pastor Dr. Mark Fisher*

# **Our New Covenant Ministry**

*As discovered in...*

**The Seven “C’s” of Our New Covenant Ministry**

*From*

***2 Corinthians 1-9***

***“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory,  
are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory,  
which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”***

# Our New Covenant Ministry

## 1<sup>st</sup> Century Corinth of Achaia

### ***The City of Corinth***

Capital city of the province of Achaia, southern shores of Greece

Hub of the Roman Empire – rich, cosmopolitan center,

Estimated population well over 100,000, with many visitors

Located by an isthmus – shipping was the main commerce

Held the Olympic style *Isthmian Games*

Arts, sciences, philosophies, cults & idolatry flourished

Called a “Seaman’s paradise,” “Drunkard’s heaven,” “Virtuous

woman’s hell,” “City in which only the strong survive”

***Worldliness/sinfulness had an overwhelming presence in this city***

### ***The Young Church at Corinth***

Divisions – following men, philosophy, civil lawsuits

Depravities – fornication, drunkenness, idolatry, lack of church discipline,  
coveted social standing, denied resurrection, honored worldly wisdom

Personal Issues – marriage & divorce, adultery, fleshliness

Worship problems – abuse of spiritual gifts (tongues), self-promotion,  
evil fellowships, foods, role of men and women in the church, abused the Lord’s table,

Doubted & questioned the Apostle Paul – inferior apostle

***Worldliness had found a comfortable home within this church***

### ***The Apostle Paul***

Established church ~50 A.D. on 2<sup>nd</sup> missions journey (spent 1 ½ yrs)

Wrote two letters to the Corinthians, 1<sup>st</sup> ~55 A.D., 2<sup>nd</sup> ~57 A.D.

Confronted the problems by example, doctrine & practice

Praised, rebuked, reproved, and exhorted the saints

Defended his ministry & reputation throughout the letters

***Encouraged Christ-centered maturity and application***

### ***The Second Letter to the Corinthians***

Titus delivered mixed news about the church to Paul in Philippi

The letter was preparation for Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to Corinth

Paul beared his soul to this wavering church – his joy & sorrow

Paul revealed his passion, love, & affection towards the wayward

***Paul never reverted to legalism, but dismantles it with N.C. truth***

# The Seven “C’s” of Our New Covenant Ministry

## 2 Corinthians 1-9

### **1. A Ministry of Compassion**

- I. 1:3-7, The Relevance (importance, significance) of Suffering
- II. 1:8-14, The Reality (at the moment) of Suffering

### **2. A Ministry of Co-Laboring**

- I. 1:15-24, A Purposeful Wait
- II. 2:1-11, A Purposeful Presence
- III. 2:12-13, 7:5-7, A Purposeful Departure

### **3. A Ministry of Change**

- I. Old Testament Background
  - A. *Genesis 15, Abrahamic Covenant*
  - B. *Exodus 19, Moses Law – Verbal*
  - C. *Exodus 32, Moses Law – Written Form*
- II. Program Change
  - A. *Jere. 31:31, The Assurance of Change*
  - B. *2 Cor. 3:2-6, The Authenticity of Change*
  - C. *2 Cor. 3:7-11, The Ascendency of Change*
- III. Personal Change
  - A. *2 Cor. 3:12-16, The Assurance of Change*
  - B. *2 Cor. 3:17-18, The Authenticity of Change*

### **4. A Ministry of Challenge**

- I. 4:1-6, The Challenge of the Message
- II. 4:7-15, The Challenge of the Ministry
- III. 4:16-18, The Challenge of Faith

### **5. A Ministry of Commitment**

- I. 5:1-8, The Reality of Immortality
- II. 6:9-11, The Reality of Reward
- III. 5:12-21, The Reality of Service

### **6. A Ministry of Consequence**

- I. 6:11-13, The Appeal
- II. 6:14-7:1, The Authority

### **7. A Ministry of Cheerfulness**

- I. 8:1-6, The Example
- II. 8:7-15, The Explanation
- III. 9:1-15, The Enthusiasm

**Note:** The Seven “C’s” or principles are interwoven throughout this study

# **1. A Ministry of Compassion**

## **2 Corinthians 1**

### **1. 3-7, The Relevance (importance, significance) of Suffering**

- 3. Right from the heart, recognizes the source of mercy & comfort*
- 4. Recognizes the comforter & purpose of hardships*
- 5. God's Grace is equal to the challenge*
- 6. The ministry of compassion is for others – Paul towards the Corinthians*
- 7. Expectation & hope in the New Covenant – great expectation in you all*

### **2. 8-14, The Reality (at the moment) of Suffering**

- 8. Sharing of the burden beyond natural help*
- 9. In order to see God's ability... the trial was heightened*
- 10. The all-encompassing grace was experienced – past, present, & future*
- 11. Compassion of the Corinthians toward Paul*
- 12. Boasting is in carrying out God's will – not being the most popular theologian*
- 13-14. The mutual benefit of recognizing – A ministry of compassion toward each other*

### **Group Discussion Questions (3-4 per group):**

1. What attributes of God does Paul mention in chapter one? Why are they important?
2. Why did God allow severe suffering in Paul's life?
3. How did Paul use suffering in a positive way in his life?
4. How can we live out verse 1:24 with our own people?

*As a group formulate an important question from this lecture for the teacher. (The questions will be presented to Mark)*

## **2. A Ministry of Co-Laboring**

### **2 Corinthians 1 & 2**

#### **1. 1:15-24, A Purposeful Wait**

*15-16, Paul's purposefully delayed visit may have been misunderstood – explanation begins*

*17-18, Paul's sensitivity to God's timing was not to be mistaken for double-mindedness*

*19-20, Reminder of the previous purposeful teaching – it was not contradictory or inconsistent*

*21-22, Our Establishment and anointing is just as authentic as yours – reason behind delay*

*23-24, The delay was to spare you from our rebuke, and to give you time to work it out*

#### **2. 2:1-11, A Purposeful Presence**

*1-4, Paul opens his heart, - he had expectation that they would respond to this letter and work things out among themselves*

*5-9, Paul was sly; he had purpose in writing and sending ministers to them – deal with sin*

*10-11, Paul trusted the leadership, yet there were some who did not trust him*

#### **3. 2:12-13; 7:5-7, A Purposeful Departure**

*2:12-13, The need to see and hear the news from Titus (7:5-10)*

**The Apostle** is bursting forth with confidence in the conquering Christ! The imagery is of a returning conquering Roman general leading a triumphal parade through his city for his people see and to celebrate. The fragrance of incense was spread abroad by the procession for all to experience and smell. While death awaited the captured, with a spectacle of public execution, enjoyment of the spoils taken in war awaited the victors.

#### **Group Discussion Questions (3-4 per group):**

1. What sets the NC life apart from other religions or legalism?
2. What sets the NC ambassador apart from others (2:14-17)?
3. What question does the Apostle present in vs. 2:16?

*As a group formulate an important question from this lecture for the teacher.*

### **3. A Ministry of Change**

#### **2 Corinthians 3**

##### **1. Covenant Background**

- A. Gen 15, Abrahamic Covenant – (Land, seed, blessing), formalized – no time limitation*
- B. Exodus 19:1-8, Verbal giving of the 10 Commandments (moral) – Sacrificial & Ceremonial*
- C. Exodus 32, Attempted giving of the Mosaic Law in written form (moral law)*

##### **2. A Program Change**

###### *A. The Assurance & Need for Change*

Isaiah 1:1-4, Failure of Israel under the Law

Isaiah 42:1-7, (Isa. 49:8), success of the servant Messiah prophesied

Jeremiah 11:19-20, Failure of Judah & Jerusalem

Jeremiah 31:31-36, - Success of the New Covenant in Messiah prophesied

###### *B. 2 Cor. 3:2-6, The Authenticity of Change – Competed by God in Jesus Christ!*

2-4, The heart issue has been dealt with

4-6, The Spirit of God has come; we are indwelt, signed, sealed, and awaiting delivery

###### *C. 2 Cor. 3:7-11, The Superiority of the change (refer to Appendix A)*

##### **3. A Personal Change**

*A. 12-16, Such trust*

*B. 17-18, Such transformation*

##### **Group Discussion Questions (all together):**

1. Who or what was important to the Apostle? (vss. 3:1-3)
2. What is the Apostle's answer to his own question?
3. What are the great contrasts in vs. 6?
4. What theme is the Apostle introducing in vs. 6?
5. What ministry is the Apostle speaking of in vs. 7?
6. Review & discuss Appendix A

*As individuals formulate an important question that you would ask yourself.*

# ***A Ministry of Challenge***

## **2 Corinthians 4**

### **1. I. 1-6, The Challenge of the Message**

*Review:*

- 3:3 – Ministry of the heart
- 3:5 – Ministry based on God's sufficiency
- 3:9 – Ministry of the Spirit – surpassing glory
- 3:12 – Ministry of such hope
- 3:17 – Ministry of freedom
- 3:18 – Ministry of simplicity

1. *We do not lose heart contrasted to legalism in which you lose heart*
2. (2:17) Already seeded/prepared us with this issue  
10:1-6, It is the truth which destroys false teaching!!!  
11:3-4, Why put up with it?
- 3-4. *Satan is blinding from what? The glory of Christ!*
5. *We preach Christ! Not man's words or deeds! We are bond-servants not lords!*
6. *God's authority breaks the darkness; it is His light that dispels the darkness!!!*  
The face of Jesus Christ! The glory of God is witnessed alone in Christ!!!

### **2. 7-15, The Challenge of the Ministry**

7. Earthen vessels – humbling, of little value. Fragile, cheap, cast aside quickly
8. Hard pressed – afflicted, oppressed. Crushed – no escape, way out, overwhelmed, crushed. Perplexed - to doubt, confused, uncertain, be at a loss. Despair – utter loss, utterly destitute, no hope.
9. Persecuted – harassed, pursued. Forsaken – left helpless or behind. Struck down – thrown to the ground, cause pain. Destroyed – to kill or ruin.

**Reminder:** 1:3-4, Paul needed the Lord to Minister to him in his trial and Paul learned the answers of the “whys”. 12:9, His weakness allowed grace to perfect itself in him and he boasted in his weakness, which is contrary to worldly thinking.

10. *Why the hardships? So Christ in a greater way lives through me*
- 11-12. *As death works in one, it results in life in the other*
- 13-14. *Paul describes the equality of relationship in Christ*
15. *Ministry gifts and strengths are for the benefit of others, resulting in glorifying Christ*

### **3. 16-18, The Challenge of Faith (perspective)**

*16-18. Maintaining the Faith ideal throughout all the challenges of life*

#### **Group Discussion Questions (3-4 per group):**

1. Why don't we completely lose heart in our NC ministry (4:1)?
2. What did Paul do in response to NC truth (4:3-4)?
3. Why does the apostle mention Christ's face (4:6)?
4. What is the treasure Paul speaks of (4:7)? (Col 1:24-29)
5. What are the purposes in hardships (4:8-12)?
6. What is the cause of thanksgiving (4:15)?
7. Why does the apostle repeat vs. 1 (4:16)?
8. Read Appendix B

*As a group formulate an important question from this lecture for the teacher.*

## **5. A Ministry of Commitment**

### **2 Corinthians 5**

#### **1. 1-8, The Reality of Immortality**

1. *Confidence – **Tent** is temp; Earthen vessel. **Building** - God is architect*
2. *We long for immortality – for permanent residency; clothed with immortality*
3. *We are not going to be disembodied spirits!*
4. *Platonists desired to be disembodied; we desire the fullness of the resurrection!*
5. *God has prepared and sealed us; we await the reality of Christ-like bodies.*
- 6-7. *Even delayed we do not doubt the reality of the promises of our resurrected Messiah*
8. *The conclusion? We are ready, and can hardly wait; we anticipate such glory!!!*

#### **2. 9-11, The Reality of Reward**

9. *Therefore: What is the goal? To please our Savior who has called us and empowered us.*
10. *Bema seat – (Acts 18:12-17). A large ornate platform where officials hear legal cases.*
11. *The shift in thought, fear wakes us up to the reality of the lost, love motivates us!*

#### **3. 12-21, The Reality of Service**

- 11-13, *A Convincing Ministry, Paul's passion, patience & practice*
- 14-15, *A Compelling Ministry, Paul's obsession & observation*
- 16-21, *A Committed Ministry, Paul's new outlook & occupation*

#### **Group Discussion Questions (3-4 per group):**

1. Why is Paul so sure of his future (5:1)?
2. Why is it important to live by faith (5:7)?
3. What are the motives of the NC servant (5:8-15)?
4. What does it mean to be a new creation (5:17)? 4:6
5. *The NC ministry includes what two tasks (5:18-20)?*

*As a group formulate an important question from this lecture for the teacher.*

## 6. A Ministry of Consequence

### II Corinthians 6:11-7:4

#### 1. 1-13, The Appeal of a Father

11. Paul fully opened his heart, as a father pleading with children, he couldn't be more open

12. Your own resistance, your own doubt has caused your problems

13. Parent relationship – respond to that love and sacrifice

1 Cor 4:9-16, For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus **I became your father through the gospel**. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

#### 2. 6:14-7:4, The Authority of NC Scripture

14. Unequally yoked – common OT principle. Ox & donkey (Deut 22:10) Marriage (Deut. 7:3)

Legalism - brings about more sin; Philosophy – reasons its way around sin; Idolatry – encourages sin

Righteousness vs. lawlessness – Legalists denied His Messiah-ship, Philosophers denied His deity, and Idolaters denied His dominion (the only God)

Light vs. Darkness – this thought carries to next contrasts

15. Christ vs. Belial – Jewish name for Satan.

Believer vs. unbeliever – what commonality?

16a. Temple of God vs. Idols – (4:7)

#### 3. 16b-7:1, The Authority (mix of OT texts and ideas) not uncommon in NT teaching

16b. I will dwell – Exo, Eze. 43:7-9, Zech 2:10, 11 (future)

I will be their God, and they shall be my people – Jere 31:33, 24:7, 32:38; Eze 11:20, 37:38

17. Come out from among them and be separate says the Lord – Isa 52:11

Do not touch what is unclean – very clearly OT teaching of separation from defilement

And I will receive you – Eze 20:41 – futuristic when given

18. Eze 37, speaks of the glorious future of Israel concerning the Father/child relationship

*7:1. These Promises – Fulfillment found in Christ's New Covenant*

**Ending digression/side trail** – Not by exposing the false teachers as when he began, but by teaching them to separate from them.

***Cleanse ourselves from all wrong both in physical and spiritual realm...***

*1 Cor 5:8-12, Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?*

*1 Cor 6:18-20, Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

*1 Cor 7:23, You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.*

***2 Cor 6:2-4, Paul began his side trail with victory; he ends his side trail with such hope!***

**Group Discussion Questions (3-4 per group):**

1. Why such an entreaty by the apostle (6:1-21)?
2. Why does Paul bring up his past sufferings (6:1-10)?
3. Why is the apostle's appeal emotional (6:11-12)?
4. Can a believer in Christ resist the grace of God?
5. Why does Paul use such strong language (6:14-18)?
6. Why does the apostle quote from the Old Testament?
7. Recall 4:7, where is God's temple today?
8. The apostle's last appeals are based on what?

*As a group formulate an important question from this lecture for your church people.*

## **7. A Ministry of Cheerfulness**

### **2Corinthians 8&9**

#### **1. 8:1-6, The Example**

- 1. Bestowing of Grace-it's happening among us now*
- 2. Resulting in an overflow of service*
- 3-4. Urgency in ministry – heart motivation*
- 5. Exceeded Paul's expectations – Mission's work the same*
- 6-7. Abound in this work of grace that God is working in you*

#### **2. 8:7-15, The Explanation**

- 8. It was real for the Macedonians, how about you Corinthians?*
- 9. Could there be a greater example of sacrifice?*
- 10-11. The work in their hearts had begun, now to complete it*
- 12-14. A free sharing of what God has given you*
- 15. Manna illustration – Exo. 16:18*

#### **3. 9:1-15, The Enthusiasm**

- 1-5. Fulfilling and completing the generosity already in them*
- 6-7. It's all about the heart, motivation of faith & love- cheerful, hilarious attitude*
- 8-9. Promise and example*
- 10-14. Grace has done its work*
- 15. What more could be said!!!*

#### **Group Discussion Questions (all together):**

1. How can we live out these “grace giving” principles among our people?
2. Is joy or cheerfulness important in our lives? What can hinder them?
3. Why is 8:9 foundational/important relating to grace giving?

*As individuals explain how “Our New Covenant Life” study has encouraged you?*

*As individuals explain how this study can be used in your ministry?*

(Please record the answers to these last two questions for Mark to review).

## Appendix A

### A Comparison between the Old & New Covenants

<b>The Old Covenant vs. New Covenant – 2 Cor.</b>	
<i>Old Covenant – Mosaic Law</i>	<i>New Covenant in Jesus Christ</i>
<i>Conditional - Exodus 19</i>	<i>Unconditional - Jeremiah 31</i>
<i>Of the letter - 6</i>	<i>Of the Spirit - 6</i>
<i>Written in stone - 7</i>	<i>Written on the heart - 3</i>
<i>The letter kills - 6</i>	<i>The Spirit gives life - 6</i>
<i>Ministration of death - 7</i>	<i>Made us able ministers - 6</i>
<i>Passing glory - 7</i>	<i>Much more glory - 8, 9</i>
<i>Ministration of condemnation - 9</i>	<i>Ministration of righteousness - 9</i>
<i>Temporary, abolished - 11, 13</i>	<i>Eternal - 11, Heb 13:20</i>
<i>Veils - 13</i>	<i>Unveils in Christ - 14,18</i>
<i>Law is bondage - 7, 9</i>	<i>Spirit of Christ is liberty - 17</i>
<i>Condemns the individual - 9</i>	<i>Changes the individual - 18</i>
<i>Administered by Moses - 13</i>	<i>Administered by the Lord - 17,18</i>
<i>Conquered - 13, 14</i>	<i>Conqueror - 4:1ff</i>

## Appendix B

### “Surpassing Greatness”

*“He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.” (Heb 10:9b, 10, 18).*

Hebrews 10 declared to us the perfection of the sacrifice of Christ – the blood of the New Covenant. It purified us both inside and outside for how long? Forever!

*“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph 2:19).*

Eph 2 declared this great grace to us, where we as gentile believers have been made partakers of God’s eternal program. We are no longer on the outside, but on the inside.

Consider these questions: What is this surpassing greatness? Why is it so great? How does it affect me as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Is it really life changing? Can it change the way I live at home? At work? Or where ever I am? This surpassing greatness spoken of in 2 Corinthians 3&4 is very doctrinal, but is it really that practical, so as to change my daily walk with Christ?

Consider the background of these saints: The first letter to them from Paul dealt with Church issues such as: disunity, favoritism, envying, strife, intellectualism, neglect of church discipline, evil fellowships, civil lawsuits among themselves, abuse of spiritual gifts, the role of men and woman in the worship service, and the abuse of the Lord’s table (NC). So severe was God’s dealing with them that many slept (died) because of their sin.

*Personal problems:* marriage, adultery, fornication, drunkenness, foods offered to Idols, idolatry, self-centeredness to name a few. Paul said they were like babies – me first.

We learn from these letters to the Corinthians, but by no means was this church an example of a holy, separated from the world, Christ-centered church. What did Paul say of them in 1 Cor. 3:1-3

*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

Contrast this with what Paul said this of the Thessalonians: 1:6-8

*And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.*

But how did Paul deal with this church? Paul praised, reproved, rebuked, exhorted and taught - where he firmly struck he also graciously healed. In it all Paul knew that it would not be another set of rules which would transform the lives of these dear saints. It would have to be God’s “Surpassing greatness.”

In Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle he revealed his soul to these dear saints, both his joy and sorrows. It is considered by some as his most personal letter. It is an intimate picture of a Pastor’s heart for wayward sheep. In his love for them, and his passion for Christ, he warned against Judaistic influences, and replaced misguided ideas with Christ-centered doctrine.