

Imperfect People, Perfect God

Life doesn't always go the way we want it to. Even our most careful plans can collapse into farce, and the goals we most cherish are often the most difficult to achieve. In some ways, it's a relief to see that the apostle Paul's work didn't always go the way he wanted it to either. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we see one of the great writings of Christianity, a logical and powerful appeal to the members of the church at Corinth to rise above their superficial spirituality.

Sadly, 1 Corinthians didn't achieve the results Paul might have hoped for. Even after receipt of the letter, the Corinthians continued their fleshly ways, so much so that when Paul returned to Corinth, the church he founded, he was met with confrontation and abuse. In 2 Corinthians, we see Paul's efforts to pick up the pieces. He deals with the aftermath of this confrontation, reveals what does and does not motivate him, and urges the Corinthians once again to embrace him and embrace Christ.

For these reasons, 2 Corinthians is a letter we can relate to. When our lives go to pieces, we can still find direction and meaning in the same places that Paul did. God is the same as He always has been, and despite our flaws and failures, He is able to use each one of us for His work. No matter where we are, all of us have reason to rejoice. Even in our earthen vessels, we still carry His treasure.

About the Author

M. W. Bassford lives in Joliet, IL, with his wife, Lauren, where he preaches for the Joliet church of Christ.

Treasure



in Earthen Vessels

A Study of 2 Corinthians

M. W. Bassford