

11 Corinthians 2:16-3:5 What Is Real? What Keeps Us From Seeing What Is Real?

11/16/2025

Intro: The Lies We Believe- Christ Thurman. "An unexciting TRUTH can be eclipsed by a thrilling LIE."

Ex. Dr. Bell – "That is a beautiful theory, but it is destroyed by a gang of ugly facts."

1 Corinthians 4: 5-16 Question: What is the "real" according to this verse?

Ex. What Paul's resume would sound like today.

Ex. The job description God had for Paul.

When we think about a life purpose, the first thing we might ask would be, "Can we do it?" What if the best life we could ever have was clearly impossible? What do you do then? What if you did what they said, "Just do your best," and find out your best, as far as you can see, will never be enough?

You realize that the job cannot be done without direct help from God.

Is anything impossible with God? If He put it in your heart to do fulfill a great purpose, He will give you the power to do it! Your journey will feel overwhelming at times.!

Ex. Remember 11 Cor. 2: 16b? "And who is adequate for these things?"

Question: Why did he put that in the middle of another subject?

Answer: Because he felt this way, and he was amazed that all he needed was supplied at just the right time by the Lord. God will make you **adequate** (3:5,) for every challenge. Nothing as satisfying as experiencing this happening in your life.

You need those times where the odds of you making it through something are so overwhelming that nothing but complete surrender to God will get you through!

Text Today: 11 Cor. 2: 16 b- 3:1-5 *****

2: 17 1 Cor. 1:1 “by the will of God” not self-appointed!

3:1 Judging by appearance. Rough paraphrase - “Do you see us bragging about ourselves like the worldly false teachers are doing? We are the real deal, but you guys would not know the truth if it fell on you! You want recommendation letters from the ones who have risked their lives to get the message to you! You guys want to believe a lie because it makes you look good to be associated with worldly success dressed up in religion!”

Ex. “Embracing Obscurity” - A great book, and sold a lot of copies because across the front page it says, “Anonymous.” The irony is that it had to be endorsed by well-known, famous Christians to be sold, on the back page!

3: 2-5 No “paperwork” needed. The Corinthians thought Paul needed a PR man, then the gospel would be more attractive, more easy to take.

The gospel always starts off in a person’ life as a threat! As they say, “It is about to get real up in here!” It calls for repentance from a self-focused life. Not, “I just need Jesus to come in and straighten out a few rough spots in my life; I am a good person you know!” **Nope!** Your whole life focus had been wrong before you meet Christ, and it took Jesus dying on the cross to set it right, but nothing happens till you **repent, believe, receive!**

Mark 1:15 / 1 Cor. 15:1-4 / John 1:12

So what does “real” look like?

1. To be free from yourself. It is living without the fatigue and insecurity of always trying to measure up and compete with others; or demand respect from others. Incredible peace in that!
2. The satisfaction of knowing you have made a difference in the lives of others for God’s glory.

(Humble people are not thinking about how to be humble; they are not thinking about themselves at all. They are fixated on spending time with Christ.)

3. You don’t lose heart because you finally, finally, finally realize that you do not supply the power to live this “apparent,” impossible life. It is not impossible!

Final: 11 Cor. 4:3-7 Can you stand being looked at as “less-than” by the world, so that Christ can be seen in you? Are you in, or are you out?