

LESSON 3
THE SURE THING
2 CORINTHIANS 2:12—3:18



1 What event or happening (besides death and taxes) would you describe as “a sure thing”?

2 What makes you confident of this?



Read 2 Corinthians 2:12—3:18 and the following notes:

☐ 2:16, 17 ☐ 3:3 ☐ 3:4, 5 ☐ 3:6 ☐ 3:9 ☐ 3:18

3 Why was Paul bold and confident when he talked about Christ (3:4–6, 12)?

4 What can the message of the gospel do (3:6, 9, 18)?

5 What is the basis of our competence to represent God (3:5)?

Paul was bold. That is, he was confident in the gospel and in his ability to deliver it. He believed in his message so strongly that he called it the “life-giving perfume” (2:16). When Paul spoke about Christ, he spoke “with sincerity” (2:17). Such confidence came from God, as a gift, and from the conviction that the gospel could change lives. It’s easy to have doubts about ourselves and our ability to communicate. But Christ can give us both the confidence and the competence to deliver his message.



6 How do people often respond to the gospel message?

7 Why can we be confident about the message of Christ, even if few people believe it?

8 What is the difference between being bold and being obnoxious?



9 How does God want us to live as his ministers?

10 What doubts sometimes hold you back from representing Christ to the world?

11 How has God given you the competence to represent him?

12 What would make you more confident to represent Christ?



13 To whom do you represent Christ day after day?

14 What do you want to remember the next time you doubt your ability to represent Christ to others?

A What “veils” cover people’s minds today (3:14–18)? How can you help lift someone’s veil so that person can see Christ clearly and respond to the gospel?

B In what way is the gospel more glorious than the Old Testament law (3:7–11)? What about the law and the gospel makes you thankful?

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