

# Whose Competency?

## II Corinthians 3:1-6

*How does a believer view himself and how does he represent himself to others?*

## Bringing the Text to Light

### Where are the Letters? (vs. 1-3)

- **The custom: letters of recommendation**
  - See Rom 16:1-2; I Cor 16:10-11; Phil 2:19-24; Philemon.
- **The charge: where are yours? (vs. 1)**
- **Paul's response: you yourselves are! (vs. 2-3)**
  - See I Cor 6:9-11.

## Bringing the Text to Light

Where are the Letters? (vs. 1-3)

Who do I think I am? (vs. 4-6)

- See **2:16** – Who is *fit, qualified, capable, up to the task, sufficient, adequate, competent?*
- Paul's self-understanding
  - Supremely confident in his incompetency
  - Sufficiently insufficient for God's all-sufficiency
  - Thoroughly unimpressed with himself, and thus able to be overwhelmingly impressed with God
- See **Ex. 4:1-17** and **II Cor 12:11,12; 11:30; 12:10**

## Bringing the Text to Light

## Applying the Text to Life

### You are a letter from Christ to others!

- *Your life is an open book, read by all, sending a message about God, good or bad, whether you intend it or not!*
- *You may be the only person in someone else's life who uses the 'God' word in the right way.*
- *You may be the only person in someone else's life whose values and choices reveal Christ.*

**Bringing the Text to Light**

**Applying the Text to Life**

**You are a letter from Christ to others!**

**Feel Inadequate? Good!**

- *God is not looking for highly qualified, competent, successful, and self-sufficient people. He is not impressed with your competence and your qualifications. Neither is He hindered by your inadequacies. On the contrary!*