

Marks of an Effective Christian Ministry

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 2:14.
- B. II Corinthians 2:14 comes out of Paul's experience—Paul understood how God worked.
- C. A major weakness of the church today is that it does not know how God works.

II. The marks of an effective Christian ministry.

- A. Unquenchable optimism.
- B. Unfailing achievement.
 - 1. God always leads us in real triumph.
 - 2. Paul viewed his imprisonment at one time as good because the gospel was being advanced. (Philippians 1)
- C. Unforgettable impact.
- D. Unimpeachable integrity.
- E. Undeniable reality.

III. How one can attain the marks of effective Christianity. (II Corinthians 3:4-5)

- A. Our sufficiency comes from God.
- B. Jesus is the power at work within us.
- C. We are to learn to live by the power at work within us to practice authentic Christianity.

Application questions:

1. What difficulties did Paul face that demonstrate his unquenchable optimism?

2. How can it be said that God always leads in real triumph? What is the difference between real triumph and false triumph?

3. Who is an example of the undeniable reality of Christianity for you? Explain.
