

1  **II Corinthians 3**2  **II Corinthains 3:7-13**

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

3  **II Corinthains 3:14-18**

14But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

4  **II Corinthains 3 Outline**

- I. The Sufficient Grace of God
- II. The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant

5  **The Sufficient Grace of God**

1 - Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?

- *Paul's enemies in Corinth had apparently accused him of self-praise.*
- *These enemies may have come with letters of commendation from other churches.*

6  **The Sufficient Grace of God**

2 - You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

3 - clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

4 - And we have such trust through Christ toward God.

- *The Christians in Corinth were the validation of Paul's ministry.*
- *Paul is confident that God will make them so.*

7  **The Sufficient Grace of God**

5 - Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,

6 - who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- *In chapter 2 Paul had asked "Who is sufficient for these things?" -- for bringing the*

*message of life to those who were dead in sin.*

- *Here he answers that no one is sufficient in himself, but that God makes sufficient those whom He chooses.*
- *God had made Paul and his co-workers sufficient ministers of the new covenant, in contrast to the old covenant of the law that the Judaizers were preaching.*

#### 8 **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

7 - But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,

8 - how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

- *By making sin visible, the law showed that all men were under sentence of death.*
- *Yet even so the giving of the law was such a glorious occasion that afterward Moses' face glowed so much the people asked him to cover it.*
- *The old covenant was destined to be done away, and long before that the brightness of Moses' face faded.*
- *The new covenant is eternal, so its glory is both permanent and greater.*

#### 9 **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

9 - For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

- *The old covenant's law could not make men righteous; it could only condemn them by showing that they were not.*
- *The new covenant is more glorious than the old because it makes men and women righteous.*

#### 10 **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

10 - For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

11 - For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

- *The new covenant outshines the old.*
- *It changes hearts, and it will not pass away.*

#### 11 **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

12 - Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—

13 - unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

- *The new covenant gives us hope -- a confident expectation of good things to come.*
- *At the people's request, Moses had covered his shining face with a veil.*
- *This is a metaphor for the fact that truth was only partially revealed within the old covenant.*
- *In the new covenant, the way of salvation is fully revealed, and we can declare it plainly and boldly.*

12  **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

14 - But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

15 - But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

- *The minds of the Israelites were blinded, or hardened, so that they did not fully understand, and often did not obey, the law.*
- *They still fail to see that the Old Testament points clearly to Christ.*

13  **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

16 - Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

- *When Israel's heart seeks the Lord, it will become clear that the Old Testament points to Christ.*

14  **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

- *The Lord, Whom Paul mentioned in verse 16, is the same Spirit he had mentioned in verse 6, saying that God had made him a minister not of the letter, but of the Spirit -- thus not of the law, but of the Lord Himself.*
- *Where the Lord is present -- that is, in the heart of the believer -- there is liberty*
  - *To speak boldly and plainly.*
  - *To look with unveiled face on the glory of God.*
  - *To fulfil the righteousness that the law could never impart.*

15  **The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant**

18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- *As we Christians, ...*
  - *without any veil hiding the truth from us, ...*
  - *see, as if in a mirror, ...*
  - *Christ, who is the reflection (the beaming forth) of the glory of God, ...*
  - *we are changed, ...*
  - *from one stage of glory into each next and greater stage of glory, ...*
  - *by God's Holy Spirit.*