

**THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE -
to ENABLE You to SERVE Jesus Christ & Become More
& More TRANSFORMED into His Image Pt. 2
(2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18)**

B. GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT - to ENABLE you to SERVE JESUS CHRIST & to experience INTERNAL TRANSFORMATION into His Image. (2 Cor. 2:14-3:18)

1. The TRANSPARENCY of God's Grace allowing the Believer's ADMISSION. (2:12-13)
2. The TRIUMPH of God's Grace in the Believer's PROCLAMATION. (2:14-17)
3. The TRANSFORMATION of God's Grace in Believers' Ongoing SANCTIFICATION. (3:1-18)
 - Why do we resist change? Why do we need change?
 - Did Paul need a letter of commendation or introduction to the Corinthian Church? ____ Why not? (3:1-3) *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?* {NO! Why did he say this?} 2 ____ *are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of* _____, {starting with REGENERATION (John 3:3; 1 Cor. 4:5; 1 Peter 1:22-25) through what means did that happen?} _____ {the human means through preaching the Gospel & teaching them the Word of His grace}, *written not with ink but by* _____ *of the living God* {the divine medium; what was the paper for this letter?} *not on tablets of stone* {externally like the Law / 10 commandments} *but on tablets of flesh, that is, of* _____ {internally; it was saved people, not stationary paper that were his commendation letter.}.
 - Was Paul self- confident of his calling, or was he confident what God via the Holy spirit could do in believer's lives through the message of grace he preached? (3:4) *And we have such* _____ *toward God.* (2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11)
 - What must the Lord teach you negatively regarding yourself and human resources regarding life & ministry? (3:5a) *Not that we are sufficient* _____ *to think of anything as being* _____,
 - What must the Lord impress upon you positively regarding His divine resources and your ministry? (3:5b-6a) *but our sufficiency is* _____, - Did Paul have to learn this truth at salvation {Phil. 3:4-9} and over & over again in his daily Christian walk {2 Cor. 1:8-9; 12:9-10; Jn 15:4-5} and service for Christ {2 Cor. 3:6; Col. 1:28-29} These are the words of a humble, transformed man by grace! *who also made us* _____ *as ministers of* {genitive of description} *the new covenant, not of the letter* {the Law} *but of the* _____ {grace}; *for the letter kills, but the* _____ *gives life.* What did he mean by "ministers of the New Covenant"?

 - 1) This is a _____ subject, among reformed theologians & even among dispensationalists {progressive & classic}.
 - 2) The NC was solely made with _____, never with the Church, though the Church is related to the _____ of the NC., the Lord Jesus Christ, but not a participant in it.
 - 3) The NC was _____ by the blood of Christ but will not be _____ until Jesus Christ returns to set up His Kingdom on Earth.
 - 4) Presently, we are ministers of a _____ of ministry {a genitive of description like in 11:15} – of God's GRACE via the HOLY SPIRIT resulting in internal transformation. Paul is not using the language of fulfillment of the NC but metaphors of similarity.

- What does Paul then contrast in vs. 7-11? The ministries of _____
 - 1) Economy: {old} vs new (vs. 6)
 - 2) Type: letter vs. Spirit (vs. 6)
 - 3) Result manward: death vs. life (vs. 6)
 - 4) Vehicle: stone vs Spirit (vs.7)
 - 5) Result Godward: some glory vs. greater glory (vs.7,8,10)
 - 6) Purpose: condemnation vs. righteousness (vs.9)
 - 7) Duration: temporary vs. permanent (vs.11)
 - 8) Symbol: veil vs mirror (vs.13-18)
 - 9) Initiator: Moses vs. Christ (vs.12-14)
 - found in Thomas Constable's Notes pg. 59

- What word will be highlighted 7 times in this chapter? _____ (3:3, 6{2x},8,17{2x},18) Why?
- While Paul had great boldness due to the power of the Gospel & the Holy Spirit, what was he facing when preaching the Gospel to the Jews specifically (3:12-17) & the Gentiles generally (4:3-4)?

12 **Therefore, since we have such hope, we use _____ of speech** {speaking freely & openly}

13 **unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face** {why?} **so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.** {referring to Exodus 34}

14 **But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil** {metonymy for hardened unbelief & spiritual blindness} _____ **in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away** _____ . {Isa. 53:4-6; Luke 24:44; John 5:39-30; Acts 10:43}

15 **But even to this day, when Moses** {the Law & OT} **is read, a veil** {what does this refer to?} _____ **lies on their heart.** {Rom. 9:1-5, 30-33; 10:1-4}

16 **Nevertheless when one** {anyone} _____ {aorist, active, subjunctive of epistrophe - to turn to, oftentimes in faith for salvation - Matt. 13:15; Mark 4:12; Luke 1:16; Acts 3:19,9:35, 11:21, 14:15, 15:19, 26:18, 20; 2 Cor. 3:16; 1 Thess. 1:9, 1 Pet. 2:25 - and who is it they choose to turn to in faith?} _____ {the Lord Jesus Christ; 3x in the NT we see what they turn from - (Acts 14:15, 26:18, 1 Thess. 1:9 - from the wrong object of trust), **the veil is taken away** {present, passive, indicative of periaireo - is removed - by God {for Paul, this happened in Acts 9; 2 Cor. 5:16}.

17 **Now the Lord is** {one in essence & revealed by} **the Spirit** {explaining 3:16a; Jn 14:16,17, 16:7-10}; **and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty** {3:16b - freedom from what to what?}

- With regeneration internally and justification before God judicially can come and internal transformation with ongoing sanctification or spiritual growth. What does this involve?

But {in contrast to those with veiled hearts who have not turned in faith to the Lord}

we {believers in Christ with freedom by the Spirit & needing practical sanctification & spiritual growth} **all** {not limited to Moses, Paul, the apostles, but available to all believers by God's grace}, **with unveiled face,** _____ {mental occupation, meditation - the human condition of transformation} **as in a** _____ {the entire WOG - 1 Cor. 13:12; James 1:23 - what are we to behold in the mirror?} **the** _____, {the Lord Jesus Christ; Ps.1:1-3; 1Cor. 2:16; Heb. 12:2 - Why? For He is ...}

are _____ {present- ongoing; passive - are being transformed - God does this in you; indic. mood of metamorphoo - the reality of internal transformation; Rom.12:1-2; 1 Jn 3:1-3} **into** {what?} **the same image** {the image of Jesus Christ} **from** _____ {one stage of glory to the next; a progressive process over time}, **just as by** {the supernatural medium} **the** _____. (3:18) How does all of this apply to you?