

2 Corinthians Chapter 3

Lenny D'Ambrosia

Points in 2 Corinthians Chapter 3

1. Paul reminds the Corinthians that he doesn't need a letter of accreditation.
2. To see the contrast between the old and new covenants

1. Who was Paul's "letters of commendation"?

The saints at Corinth - You are our letter, written in our hearts

2 Corinthians 3:1-2

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?

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

2A. What writing instrument had Paul used to make the Corinthians a "letter of Christ"?

2 Corinthians 3:3

³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, **written** not with ink but **with the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on **tablets of human hearts.**

A. Not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God

B. And upon what had he written?

Tablets of human hearts

2A. What writing instrument had Paul used to make the Corinthians an "letter of Christ"? B. And upon what had he written?

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

⁴ and my message and my preaching were
not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in
demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the
wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

2A. What writing instrument had Paul used to make the Corinthians an "letter of Christ"? B. And upon what had he written?

1 Thessalonians 1:5

⁵ for our ***gospel did not come to you in word only***, but also ***in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction***; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

3. Who made Paul sufficient as a minister of the new covenant?

God

2 Corinthians 3:4-5

⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our ***adequacy is from God,***

4. What does the new covenant give it's servants?

The Spirit gives life

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from **God**,

⁶ who also made us **adequate as servants of a new covenant**, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life**.

4. What does the new covenant give it's servants?

John 3:5-6

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45

⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

5. How are the "old covenant" and "new covenant" described in verses 7-9?

2 Corinthians 3:7-9

7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

5. How are the "old covenant" and "new covenant" described in verses 7-9?

Old Covenant

1. Ministry of death
2. Letters engraved on stones
3. Came with glory
4. Ministry of condemnation has glory

New Covenant

1. Ministry of the Spirit
2. Tablets of human hearts (vs. 3)
3. Has more glory
4. Ministry of righteousness abound in glory

5. How are the "old covenant" and "new covenant" described in verses 7-9?

Ephesians 2:4-8

⁴ But **God, being rich in mercy**, because of **His great love with which He loved us**,

⁵ **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**,

⁶ and **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**,

⁷ so that in the ages to come **He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**.

⁸ For by **grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**;

6. What is said of the glory of the old covenant when compared with the glory of the new covenant?

The old covenant had glory, it doesn't have glory now because the new covenant glory surpasses it.

2 Corinthians 3:10

10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.

7. How else are the old and new covenants described in verse 11?

2 Corinthians 3:11

¹¹ For if that which fades away *was* with glory, much more that which remains *is* in glory.

Old Covenant

1. Fades away
2. Was with glory

New Covenant

1. Remains
2. In glory

Comparison of the Old and New Covenants

Old Covenant

1. Ministry of death (vs. 7)
2. Ministry of condemnation (vs. 9)
3. Has glory (vs. 7, 9)
4. Letters engraved on stones (vs. 7)
5. Fades away (vs. 11)
6. Was with glory (vs. 11)
7. Has no glory (vs. 10)

New Covenant

1. Ministry of the Spirit (vs. 8)
2. Ministry of Righteousness (vs. 9)
3. Has more glory (vs. 8, 9)
4. Tablets of human hearts (vs. 3)
5. Remains (vs. 11)
6. In glory (vs. 11)
7. The glory surpasses the old covenant (vs. 10)

8. How did Paul deliver the Gospel?

Paul's declared the Gospel with great "boldness in our speech".

2 Corinthians 3:12-13

¹² Therefore having such a hope, we use **great boldness in our speech,**

¹³ and *are* not like Moses, *who* used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

9. What remains on the heart when only the Old Testament is read?

A veil

2 Corinthians 3:14-15

¹⁴ But their *minds were hardened*; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

¹⁵ But to this day whenever Moses is read, a *veil lies over their heart*;

9. What remains on the heart when only the Old Testament is read?

Many of the prophecies concerning the Messiah

As a man

As suffering

As dying

As a mighty Prince, a conqueror, and a king

As humble

Jesus Christ

As God

Yet reigning

Yet as ever-living

Yet as a man of sorrows

Yet glorious

10. What happens when one turns to the Lord?

The veil is removed.

2 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ but whenever a person turns to the Lord,
the **veil is taken away**.

11. In turning to the Lord, who is it one is actually turning to, and what does one find?

A. Spirit of the Lord

B. Liberty

2 Corinthians 3:17

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

11. In turning to the Lord, who is it one is actually turning to, and what does one find?

John 4:24

²⁴ "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Galatians 5:25

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

12A. As we behold the glory of the Lord with unveiled face, what happens?

A. Transformed into the same image from glory to glory

2 Corinthians 3:18

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 from the **Lord, the Spirit**.

B. By whom does this transformation take place?

The Spirit of the Lord