**2 Corinthians 3**

*Paul alludes to the Judaizing teachers, noting that he had no need to commend himself. He contrasts the glory of the New Covenant with the vain teaching of the Judaizers. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Ministry, Appeals, and Admonitions **(1:3-7:16)**
2. Suffering and Comfort **(1:3-11)**
3. Paul’s Plans and Charge of Fickleness **(1:12-2:2)**
4. Purpose for the Former Letter **(2:3-11)**
5. The Ministry of the New Covenant **(2:12-7:16)**
   1. Led in Triumph **(2:12-17)**
   2. Letter of Recommendation, and Sufficiency of Ministry **(3:1-6)**
      1. No need for letters of commendation **(vv. 1-3).**
         1. He does not mean to commend himself. For, he needs no letter of commendation **(v. 1).**
         2. The Corinthians serve as his letter of commendation **(vv. 2-3).**
            1. All can read this letter **(v. 2b).**
            2. The epistle is of Christ, ministered by the apostles, written by the Spirit of God on the heart **(v. 3).**
      2. Sufficiency from God **(vv. 4-6).**
         1. His trust is based in Christ and the sufficiency God provides **(vv. 4-5).**
         2. God has made him a sufficient minister of the new covenant **(v. 6).**
            1. Of the Spirit, not the letter **(v. 6b).**
            2. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life **(v. 6c).**
   3. Contrast of OT Ministry and NT Ministry **(3:7-18) (cf. Exodus 34:29-35)**
      1. Contrast of Covenant Glory **(vv. 7-11).**
         1. Ministry of death engraved on stones VS ministry of the Spirit **(vv. 7-8).**
         2. Ministry of condemnation VS ministry of righteousness **(vv. 9-10).**
         3. Glory that passes away VS glory that remains **(v. 11).**
      2. Contrast of Ministry Openness (boldness) **(vv. 12-18).**
         1. The nature of the new covenant (more glorious) gives Paul boldness of speech in his ministry **(v. 12).**
         2. Unlike Moses **(vv. 13-15).**
            1. Moses put a veil over his face so the Israelites could not see the glory fading away **(v. 13).**
            2. The veil is unlifted due to blinded minds, and remains in the reading of the OT without acceptance of Christ **(v. 14).**
            3. The veil remains on the hearts of the unbelieving Jews even during Paul’s time **(v. 15).**
         3. The veil is taken away **(vv. 16-18):**
            1. When one turns to the Lord **(v. 16).**
            2. Because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty **(v. 17).**
            3. As a result of turning to the Lord, and having the veil lifted, there is a transformation into the same image of glory by the Spirit of the Lord **(v. 18).**

**Questions**

1. In what way is the gospel message (New Testament) written on our hearts **(v. 2-3)?** **(cf. Hebrews 8:10)**
2. In what way does the letter kill **(v. 6)?** Does this mean that the Old Law was bad **(cf. Romans 7:12-13)?**
3. How are we transformed ***“into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (v. 18)?***