

Lesson 3

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

- **Questions**

1. What questions did Paul ask (3:1)?
2. What were the Corinthians to Paul and others and what role did Paul play in this (3:2-3)?
3. Where did Paul's confidence and sufficiency come from (3:4-5)?
4. What did God make Paul and others (3:6)?
5. What two things did Paul compare and contrast with respect to their glory and what did he say about their glory (3:7-11)?
6. How did Paul speak and why (3:12; see 7:4)?
7. What did Moses put on his face and why (3:7, 13)?
8. What was happening in Paul's day when the old covenant was read (3:14-15)?
9. What happens when one turns to the Lord (3:16)?

10. What does the Spirit of the Lord provide (3:17)?

11. What happens when believers behold the glory of the Lord (3:18)?

• **Digging Deeper**

1. What was an epistle of commendation and do we have any examples of such in the NT (3:1)?

2. How is 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 connected with Jeremiah 31:31-34 (see Heb. 8:8-13) and Ezekiel 36:22-31? How is 3:5-6 related to 2:16?

3. What contrasts did Paul make in chapter 3?

4. What is the meaning of “letter” and “spirit” and where else in the NT does Paul contrast these two things (3:6)?

5. What is “new” about the “new covenant” (3:6; see Mt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 8:8-13; 9:15; 12:24; Jer. 31:31-34)? How long does the new covenant last (Heb. 13:20)?

6. Why did Paul call the Old Law a “ministration of death” (3:7) and a “ministration of condemnation” (3:9)?

7. What OT event does Paul make reference to in 3:7 and 3:13 and what application of it does he make to his argument concerning the Old Law?

8. Which of the 10 commandments are still in force today from the Old Law that has passed away (3:11)? What are some OT practices that various churches bind today?

9. What hope was Paul speaking of in 3:12?

10. What were many of the Jews thinking when the old covenant was read every Sabbath (3:14-15; see Acts 13:15, 27)?

11. How does “Spirit” in 3:17-18 relate to “Spirit”/ “spirit” mentioned earlier in 3:3, 6, and 8?

• Applications for Today

1. Christians need to always set the right example for others because they are an “epistle of Christ”, known and read of all men (3:2-3). What are Christians in the world (Phil. 2:15-16)?

2. The Old Law has passed way and we are under a new covenant (3:7-11). What other words are used in the NT to describe the passing of the Old Law (Rom. 7:6; Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14; Heb. 8:13; 10:9)?

3. Paul spoke with boldness (3:12; see Acts 28:31). What should Christians have in their life (1 Jn. 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14)?

4. All people need to change their minds that are hardened and to “turn to the Lord” (3:14-16). What is conversion (Acts 9:35; 11:21)?

5. There is spiritual “liberty” in Christ (3:17). What kind of liberty do Christians have in Christ (Rom. 8:21; Gal. 2:4; 5:1, 13; Jas. 1:25; 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:16)?

6. Christians need to continue being “transformed” into the image of Christ (3:18). How are Christians transformed into the glory of the Lord (Rom. 8:29; 12:2)? What glory of the Lord do Christians have in their own lives (2 Thess. 2:14)?