

2 Corinthians – Chapter 3



Author: Paul

Date: 55 A.D.

Purpose: for the Corinthians to rebuild trust in Paul as God's Apostle

Theme: Strength in weakness

Letter of Recommendation

Read 3:1-6

- † When did you last require a letter of recommendation? For what?
- † How can the people of the Corinthian church be a living letter of recommendation for Paul and the Apostles? (vs 2-3)
- † In what ways do we “show” or “reveal” to others what is written on our hearts?
- † To which tablets of stone does verse 3 refer?
 - See Exodus 31:18, 32:16, 34:1; Deuteronomy 5:22
- † What does the phrase, “letter of the law” mean in modern times?
- † Why does the letter kill? (vs 6)
- † Give the three purposes of the Law.

The Ministry of the Spirit

Read 3:7-11

- † What Old Testament story does verse 7 reference?
 - See Exodus 34:29-35
- † How do we use the word condemn / condemnation today? (vs 9)
- † What does the word righteousness mean? (vs 9)
 - Active and passive righteousness (See Titus 3:5)

The Veil

Read 3:12-18

- † All who believe in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit can act and speak with boldness. How and when do we do that? (vs 12)
- † As we read earlier in Exodus 34:29-35, what was the veil used for?

- † Although not the same word, what other “veil” is referenced in the Old and New Testament writings?
 - See Exodus 26:31-34; Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45; Hebrews 10:19-23
- † How does Exodus 34:34 relate to verses 14-16?
- † What freedom comes from the Spirit? What is the counterpart of this statement from the old covenant? (vs 17)
- † Verse 18 speaks of an image revealed. Where else does Paul refer to our ability to see / understand?
 - 1 Corinthians 13:12