

Let's Worship God

19th-24th October 2026
2 Corinthians





Monday - 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 - A Letter From Jesus

Some were bringing charges against Paul or questioning his authority. Paul says, do I need to recommend myself again? Do I need to have a letter of recommendation from some other church? Paul asks it almost incredulously to the Corinthians. And why is that? That's because the Corinthian church knew and experienced the work of Paul. Paul wasn't putting himself up on a pedestal as if he were the one to be admired, or that he was the one who had planted the church. Instead, he could say to the Corinthians, you know exactly what I have done, because you were there. When we talk about the power of the gospel, we're not talking about a personality cult. We're talking about what God, through Christ and the power of the gospel, is doing. Essentially, the Corinthians were the proof of Christ's work of evangelism. They were a letter written by Christ.

This letter is written not with ink but by the Spirit of God. The work of salvation is brought by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit breathes life into a dead body so that we believe on Jesus Christ. Paul can say that Christ is at work because of regeneration.

The second deep mystery that Paul mentions here is a doctrine of election. He says it **has** been written. The sovereign decree of God is written down, as it were, from all eternity. It's that work of God, that sovereign work of God that is a past action that has consequence on the present. How do we know that God is at work? Because He chooses to save us out of our sin.

The third deep mystery that Paul brings into mind here is the covenant of God. He says it's written on tablets of flesh, that is the heart. Why did God write His law on tablets of stone at Mount Sinai? Because He loved His people. And He gave this mark, this sign, as a demonstration that He was in covenant with them. The letter from Jesus Christ is inscribed on our hearts. How do we know that God is at work? It's because He has loved us with a covenant love, and He has written that, inscribed it on our hearts. In fact, the very new heart and new spirit that He has given to us is the proof of God's work.

Question

1. How do the Corinthians prove that God is at work?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the evidence of God's work in the church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 116:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 - The Spirit, Not the Letter

In verse 4, Paul talks about trust. He uses a word there that has the idea of a confidence. A confidence in which you can rest so that there is no doubt in your mind that that object that you are placing your trust in will do exactly what you are intending it to do. Paul speaks of the trust or the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Our lifeline is the promise that God has made in the person of Jesus Christ. It's the covenant promise that He would be a God to us, to our children after us. It's the promise that He would forgive our sins through Jesus Christ. Our very lives depend on God keeping His Word. We have this confidence that the Lord is faithful, that the Lord is the one who is able to save and who does save in Jesus Christ.

How is it that we can have this confidence? It does not come through the works of the law. It doesn't come through any innate ability that we have in and of ourselves. We cannot save ourselves. The soul is dead in rebellion. God alone has the power to take away a heart of stone and to give us a heart of flesh. Paul says very clearly that it's not his work. Paul's confidence in the gospel ministry is not because he is a good speaker. It's confidence in the God who saves - the God who knows that we are unable to grasp or to understand the message of Jesus Christ, but the God who breathes into us that life-giving Spirit that enables us to trust in Jesus Christ.

Paul contrasts the letter and the Spirit - the letter that leads to death and the Spirit that leads to life. How is it that this letter of the law leads to death? Merely external obedience, the external keeping of the law is opposed to that internal life-given, Spirit-given obedience that flows out of the life that we have in Jesus Christ. The letter, the external obedience, does not save. It kills. But that life-giving Spirit, which is the promise of the new covenant, that life-giving Spirit saves. You're standing on the edge of a cliff. And as you lean back, where is your trust? God has promised to take away your heart of stone and to give you a heart of flesh. You will not be saved through the keeping of the law. It can only condemn. Instead, the Gospel is this wonderful message that there is salvation by trusting in Jesus Christ. There is salvation by repenting of your sins and leaning fully back into the arms of Jesus Christ.

Question

1. In whom should we put our trust?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 - The Surpassing Glory of Christ

If you've been out on a nice starry night, you've known what it's like to look up at the stars and see how glorious they are. But can you see them during the day? No, because there's something much more glorious up in the sky. The sun has risen, and its brightness washes out that which was really very glorious the night before. In this passage, Paul makes a comparison between something that was glorious before and something that is much more glorious now.

There were ministers that were coming into the church that said that along with the gospel of Jesus Christ, there were certain Old Testament rites and ceremonies that must be kept. They were known as the Judaizers, and they said that not only do we have Jesus Christ, but we need to keep the Jewish laws that God had given. They made those laws to be superior over Jesus Christ. It's these individuals that Paul is answering. Paul takes the approach of setting out the surpassing glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ over and against the teaching that the Old Testament law is superior or must be added in as a way of salvation.

The Gospel is superior because it is the ministry of the Spirit as opposed to the ministry on the stone tablets - the ministry of death. Why does Paul call it a ministry of death? The law was never meant as a way of salvation after sin - we can't keep the law. The law stands as condemnation against us. But Israel had come to trust in their outward obedience to the tablets of stone. So Paul has characterized it as a ministry of death. But Paul says something interesting here. He says that period was glorious. The ministry of death was glorious. Paul doesn't dismiss the Old Covenant as being a different dispensation. He doesn't say that the law has passed away. He doesn't even say that God tried to save through this covenant, and that didn't work, and so he's given something new and something better. Paul says that was a glorious giving of the covenant. It was so glorious that Moses' face shone because of the presence of the Lord. If that Old Testament law was glorious, and it was, isn't the giving of Christ that much more glorious? The Spirit makes our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. The Spirit takes what was external and makes it internal - what was promised real. We have the ministry of the Spirit so that we come into the presence of the Lord through Jesus Christ and that law is written on our hearts.

Question

1. What is Paul comparing here?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the gloriousness of the Gospel.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 36:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 - The Superior Gospel

Paul goes on and says that the gospel is superior because it is the ministry of righteousness as opposed to the ministry of condemnation. We all stand under the law and in and of ourselves that law condemns us. We cannot be saved by our obedience. And so Paul can rightly call the Old Testament law a ministry of condemnation. At the same time, Paul says that the ministry of condemnation was glorious. And we conclude that the law of God is always glorious. How could it not be? It reflects the perfect holiness of our perfect God. It is the declaration of the righteousness of the Holy One of Israel. 1 John says that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. The light of the law still shines, and it shines in a way that reveals our sin, doesn't it? It shines in a way that reveals where we are not yet fully sanctified. You see, there is a terrible tension in our life. God requires us to be holy, even as He is holy - to be righteous and to be completely righteous. His law is an expression of that. But the Bible tells us, and our own experience confirms, that we all, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned each one into his own path. God's just judgment stands against all sin, for the wages of sin is death. But to this ministry of condemnation, Paul contrasts the ministry of righteousness and says, this is more glorious. Jesus has kept the whole law for us. He did what we cannot do and has become our righteousness, our representative in His life and in His death. God justifies us based on that perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. We receive that righteousness by faith alone, and He declares us to be glorious in His sight. Isn't that more glorious?

The gospel is superior because it is the ministry that endures forever, while the Old Covenant ministry was temporary. That Old Covenant, that Old Testament law is glorious. And it's a law that still has purposes for us today as it has always. But here Paul brings out the point that God was using it in all of its glory to point towards the perfect coming of Jesus Christ. He was using it to direct attention to the Saviour Jesus so that when the sun arises, it dispels all darkness. It displaces all other lights. And this sun never sets. It remains forever. Jesus is the one who remains forever. He's the one who's promised from of old. And those lights were reflections or promises of the coming of Jesus. And as He has come, as He has risen, it is a light that remains forever.

Question

1. Why is the gospel superior to the law?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the salvation we have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 - With Unveiled Faces!

Moses put a veil on his face because of the glory that was represented by the giving of the law. But Paul now gives a second reason for the veil. Not only could the Israelites not look steadily at the brilliant glory, but what they were looking at was passing away. John Calvin says that the passing away of the glory on Moses' face prefigured the fact that the law could not save. The Israelites could not rest in the giving of the law. They were not supposed to put their trust in their keeping of the law. Salvation is through faith in the righteous Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the one who kept the law for us. All of those things given in the Old Covenant were pointing forward to the surpassing glory of Jesus Christ. And the fading glory of that which was passing away is represented by the veil in this passage. That veil remains today. Are there other approaches to eternal life today? Yes. There are veils of legalism, of salvation by works, or trusting in something else other than Christ. Anything that would come between you and Christ is a veil.

The veil in this passage also represents blindness. The blindness stands for unbelief. Moses was preaching and teaching about the coming of the Messiah. All of those sacrifices were pointing forward to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And yet, the Jews' hearts and minds were blind. They were filled with unbelief, not trusting in the coming Saviour. There's a very specific application that Paul has here towards the Jews who rejected the Messiah and who were looking for salvation by their keeping of the law. But are the non-Jews any more enlightened? The Jews have the bright light of the glory of God's law given to them, and yet they in unbelief were blind to the Messiah. But we today have the message of Jesus Christ preached and the law of God written on our hearts. And yet many still have a veil of blindness and unbelief.

The third thing the veil represents is separation. Moses went up on the mountain to speak with God and as he came back, his face was shining because he'd been in the presence of the Lord. One reason that the Israelites couldn't look on that glory is because of unholiness. There is a separation that exists because of sin. The Israelites understood that God is holy and we are not. How in the world can we come into the presence of a holy God? God has made a way for sinners to be saved and to come into His presence. And that way is through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Paul says that you, the church, are brought by Christ and by the indwelling Spirit of God into the presence of the Lord without any veil.

Question

1. What does the veil represent?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we can come before God through Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 17:10-13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 - Being Transformed Into The Same Image

God's work is not finished with our justification, but it also includes our sanctification. We are drawn behind the veil and transformed by the Spirit of the Lord. It is the work of God that does both of these things. Sanctification is a continuation or a further application of that complete work of atonement or salvation being applied in our lives. Justification is the declaration of our being right with God, not because of something that we have done. We are separated because of our sin. But God justifies us in Jesus Christ. The Righteous One has lived for us and has died for us so that the veil is taken away. God also works to sanctify you, transforming you into His image.

What is this transformation? What is it that God does in us? God said that He made mankind after His own image. When Paul says that we are being transformed into the image of God, he grabs hold of that Biblical teaching of what mankind is supposed to be like by creation and then by redemption. God made man morally perfect - that means he was without sin. He existed in the Garden of Eden walking and talking with God face to face. Sin broke the image of God, and brought shame and judgment into the relationship. In God's grace though, He promised a Redeemer. We are restored to that fellowship with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is a process of transformation that's taking place. It's a process that is described elsewhere as dying more and more to sin and living more and more to Christ. It's described as the putting off of the old man and putting on the new. Throughout the New Testament, that work of the Holy Spirit is described as a war, a difficult and relentless task that we are called to be engaged in. It is a victory that is progressive in this life and that will be complete in glory. Resting on the love of God who redeems us and knowing that we are not saved by our own works, we fight daily the temptations that surround us, that entangle us. We fight those temptations because God has equipped us to do so, knowing that a child of God is not under the dominion of sin, but is instead a follower of His. We are set free from that power of sin and are being transformed. We don't lose hope in that battle. knowing that in this life we will not be perfect. We will see progress in our lives. So we don't lose hope knowing that God is at work in us.

Question

1. How does the Holy Spirit transform us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18a

Praise: Psalm 1A - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

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