

## 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 From Glory to Greater Glory

Today we are looking at the Surpassing Glory of the Ministry of the NC over that of the OC! Broke down the differences last week.

A) We saw that the **Old Covenant was external** – based on outward sacrifices, washings, and the keeping of the Law.

B) The **New Covenant is internal**: God giving us a new heart and writing His laws on our hearts

1) Filling us with His spirit to enable us to walk with Him.

C) The Promises and blessings of the Old Covenant **were conditional** – based on man's performance.

D) Where as the Promises and blessings of the NC are **based on Christ performance**- the only condition to receiving them is that we are in Christ.

E) The Old Covenant's relationship with God was at **a distance**.

1) NC – God says everyone shall Know me!

Now Paul reveals here that there was a glory that was associated with the OC – but the glory of the NC is far greater!

A) There are 4 things that I want PT out today how the NC was more glorious than the OC!

### #1 Provides Righteousness vs condemnation! V. 7-11

7 But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. 10 For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. 11 For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

Paul says there is a kind of glory about the old covenant, there is an attractiveness about it!

A) It had a Glorious Beginning

Aa) Now the ministry of the OC was glorious in that the law was written by the Finger of God – on stone tablets – delivered to Moses via Angels lightening, thunderings – smoke -

B) It had a Glorious Beginning symbolized here by the brightness of Moses' face when he

**came down from the mountaintop with the tables of the Law.**

1)God made his face to shine

### **C) The Law was glorious for what it stood for :**

1)It represented the Holiness & Righteousness of God { Perfect Plan

**But the glory of the OC was fading PASSING – Exodus tells us that when Moses came down his face was aglow - He had to Veil it to talk to the Pp.**

**A)But Paul lets us in on another factor – V.13 Moses kept the Veil on to hide the fact that the glory was fading –**

**B)God allowed for this fading to symbolize this point – the glory of the OC – the law was not permanent.**

**C)Don't miss this point – There is a glory in the OC – the glory is this it describes what RIGHTEOUSNESS looks like!**

### **A MIRROR NOT- A BAR OF SOAP**

**A)The law is a mirror. It is not a bar of soap. We look in the mirror to see the condition of our countenance.**

**B)I need a make over – I need a shower I am dirty!**

1)It's the soap which cleanses US of our dirt. The law is a mirror. not soap.

**C)The law is not a surgeon, who can remove, by his skills, a cancer. The law is simply gives us the diagnosis**

**D)“The office of the law is to show us the disease in such a way that it shows us no hope of a cure!**

**E)The NC brings a remedy to those who are past hope.**

**The glory of the NC is greater because it provides a way for man to become RIGHTEOUS in the site of God!**

**A)Through faith in Jesus Christ – That is what made this a greater glory!**

**10 For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.**

**11 For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.**

### **LAMP VS THE SUN**

**A) Trying to work at night in my backyard I need a lamp -the lamp was very useful until the sun came up, but when the sun came up, the lamp is of no further use.**

**B)The OC was like the lamp it illuminated – it provided a standard – it revealed a the problem**

1)It was useful until the Sun came up

**C)When the SON– came up – Jesus rose – NC – was revealed !**

1)Righteousness not just described but Provided for by the death and Rez of Christ!

**MAIN PT OC DESCRIBES WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS – THE NC PROVIDES A WAY TO BECOME RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**Psychologists tell us that the only way you can function in the world today is with that sense of approval.**

**A)If parents do not give their children a sense of security, they are torn apart by life, ravaged by whatever happens.**

**B)And it is true of us as well. We need it all the time. 1)We need all the time that sense of being approved, accepted, loved, cherished.**

**C)That is the new covenant.** { Accepted into the Beloved – by the grace of God thru the finished work of Jesus Christ

1) Isn't that a greater glory than the feeling of trying to earn your way into God, feeling guilty because you did not quite make it?

**#2 A Better message to Proclaim. v.12**

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech

**A)Therefore – Since the NC is Superior to the OC More glorious because provides.... Than describes**

**B)We can speak boldly – Goodnews to Share – Not Condemning –**

**C) What a drag it would be if – our message was that people have no Hope, doom & Gloom**

1){ I would hate my job

**Picture a hospital – where you have two doctors who work together – one doctor it is his responsibility task – let the patients who are going to die – No cure**

The other doctor gets to be the one who lets patients know – **You are sick – but we can fix it** – there is a cure.

So everyday the one doc goes from bed to bed room to room – this message – I am sorry there is nothing we can do – try and make your final days as comfortable as we can. **Dr DEATH**

The other doctor everyday gets to go from patient to patient – room to room letting pp know – Good news – we can fix this you are going to make it **DR LIFE!**

**Which guy do you think is going to be more excited about going to work each day? Which guy is going to call in sick?**

A) Paul is saying – we get to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> doctor – for every case we can say: *There is a treatment – you can be fixed – It is really simple – embrace Christ*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Doctor He has no message – He goes about each day trying to figure out why he is there – what is his purpose – his mission.**

A) That is almost worse than the guy who has to deliver the bad news – at least that guy has a purpose.

**B) A lot of believers today are like the 3<sup>rd</sup> Doctor – they are still trying to figure out why they are here – what is their purpose –**

C) God wants them to understand – you have a glorious message to proclaim ! – Go for it

C) **Our message is:** there is Hope in Jesus – You can be freed – There is doom but that is not the end of the Story

1) There is Goodnews – Jn 3:16 – *For God so ..... Everlasting Life*

### **#3 No more Veil! V 13-16**

13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

**A) Paul says that the Jews of his day were unable to see that the glory of Moses' ministry had faded in comparison to the ministry of Jesus.**

**B) That veil is still there today: talk to many Jewish pp they just can't accept that Jesus is**

**their Messiah**

**C) Yossi – Valley of Meggido – Talked about this great Battle – Forces of the world come against Messiah – wiped out - He was excited**

1) Problem – I was talking about Jesus – 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – He was talking about the messiah they are still waiting for.

**D) Funny though you ask an orthodox Jewish person how are you saved? By sacrifice – by the shedding of blood.**

1) But there hasn't been a sacrifice in 2,000 yrs Since the temple was destroyed in AD 70 – so how can that be? BY FAITH -

**16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**

**A) Faith in Jesus – the Final Sacrifice**

**B) Veil on the eyes of the Jews still there today**

**C) Of course, it could be said that the Jews are not the only ones for whom a veil lies on their heart.**

**D) Gentiles also have “veils” that prevent them from seeing Jesus and His work for us clearly.**

**D) But Jesus is more than able to take those veils away!**

1) This points to the essential need of *prayer* in evangelism. Open Blind eyes

**#4 New covenant brings freedom and transformation! V.17-18**

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

**A) This passage has been grossly misused & misquoted to be a loose “free-for-all”**

**B) Emphasis is - He gives us liberty...“from Spiritual bondage”!**

1) The OT Law brought bondage... Acts 15:10 “Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”

Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

C) Paul really has in mind the *liberty of access*. He is building on his words from 2 Corinthians 3:12: *we use great boldness of speech*.

1) Boldness is a word that belongs with **liberty**.

**D) Because of the great work of the Holy Spirit in us through the new covenant, we have a bold, liberated relationship with God.**

1) Not timid not always feeling ashamed - Been set free

E) “A liberty from the yoke of the law, from sin, death, hell; fear from the world and from legalistic religious practices

**In Christ we have this incredible freedom to just be ourselves – to be who God has made us and is making us.**

A) Christianity is not about trying to conform to some ideal- “This is what a Christian looks like.”

B) He reads his Bible 5hrs a day – prays for 2 / witnesses to every stranger and goes to Church 5 nights a week – involved in 4 Charities

C) We have this tendency in the Church to put out these standards – this is what a Christian does and doesn’t do.

1) He doesn’t smoke or chew or go..... doesn’t listen to secular music watch movies –

D) He only watches Christian TV are only roots for Christian athletes

**Listen the Christian life is not about conformation – being conformed into a standard that was the OC –**

A) The NC is all about transformation – God doing a work in your heart by His spirit.

B) Notice how Paul puts this - 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.

**C) Now catch this: There is still a Mirror – when we looked into the mirror and see ourselves standing next to the Law –**

1) We saw what we were not – and what we could never be in ourselves  
Standard that we just couldn’t keep

**D)Now we look into the mirror and see ourselves standing along side of Jesus and the message is – This is what you will become.**

**1)This is what I am making you into transformed – How does it happen?**

**It happens as we take the time to Behold Him – Look at Jesus – when we do Paul says we *ARE BEING TRANSFORMED***

**A)Beauty of the Studying the Word – drawing near to Jesus – His heart**

**B)Now psychologists, have done research about intergration:**

**1)Which means that there is a marked tendency for mutual assimilation between persons who love each other, who are continually in each other's presence, and under each other's influence.**

**C)They Start to look alike and act alike**

**A)I'm sorry Denise, but nevertheless, that's true psychologically.**

**I have said before – I picked up all her good traits she picked up my bad ones**

**Test done by photographic society in Geneva, that took photographs of seventy-eight married couples out of an equal number of adult brothers and sisters.**

**A)And on careful inspection, it's been found by them, that the **married couples** show more likeness between the one member and the other than do **brother and sister** of the same blood to each other.**

**B)There are a lot of sad-looking women in this audience, right at this moment.**

**But we've all seen happily married people who have shared life together through many years take on each others traits!**

**A)It's a fact that if you spend time in the presence of someone over a lengthy period of time, you will have a measure of assimilation.**

**B)Well, this, of course, is not just a psychological thing. It is also a Spiritual thing –**

**1)Spend enough time with Jesus beholding Jesus – you are going to start acting like Jesus – His eyes His heart – His worldview**

**C) Now, when he says, “**into the same image,**” that's a figure of speech derived Genesis chapter 1.**

**1)Create man in our image!**

**D)The image of God was marred when man sinned in the Garden of Eden. And it's the work of sanctification to restore us to the image of God**

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,”

### **Happens as we are beholding Jesus – Gospels**

A) Reading the gospels - Books – Jesus style Gayle Irwin / The imitation of Christ – Peter Kreeft

1) Max Lucado -

Intimate moments – Incredible moments – Ken Kire

Jesus up Close Skip Heitzig

Crazy Love – Francis Chan

“from glory to glory” - Each day you can have your own personal transfiguration as you worship the Lord & yield to the Spirit

### **Notice Paul says: beholding his glory**

A) What is the glory of the Lord?

B) Well, it, of course, is the glory of his person, the glory of his work, or to sum it up as John does in John chapter 1, full of grace and full of truth.

The Cross Loyld Jones – The Blood of Christ – Andrew Murray

C) Here today don't know Christ – Acknowledge His glory – His Deity – His death

1) Repent