

## Study 3

### Read 2 Corinthians Chapter 3

#### SUMMARY

Having just begun vindicating his ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul reminds the Corinthians that he really needs no letter of accreditation, for they are his epistles of commendation. Through his ministry, in which he had written upon their hearts with the Spirit of the living God, they themselves have become an epistle of Christ (1-3). This he says, with full realization that it is God who has made him sufficient as a minister of the new covenant, which is a ministry of the Spirit who gives life (4-6).

Paul then proceeds to contrast the new covenant with the old covenant, to illustrate the glorious nature of his ministry. With Exodus 34:29-35 as his reference, he equates the glory of the old covenant with the glory on Moses' face that was temporary. But if the old covenant, described as one of death and condemnation, had glory, then how much more glorious is the new covenant, a ministry of the Spirit and of righteousness which is not passing away (7-11)!

Paul then declares that those who listen only to the Old Testament still have a veil on their hearts (12-15). But when we turn to the Lord (whom Paul equates with the Spirit), the veil is taken away and there is liberty. Also, by beholding the glory of the Lord with unveiled face we are being transformed into the same glorious image by the Spirit of the Lord (16-18).

#### Questions:

- 1) Who was Paul's epistle known and read of all men? (II Corinthians 3:1-2)
- 2) According to Paul the Corinthians were declared to be the epistle of Christ written not with ink but what, not in tables of stone but what? (II Corinthians 3:3)
- 3) Paul wrote the Corinthians "our sufficiency is of whom?" (II Corinthians 3:5)
- 4) Who made Paul an able minister of the New Testament? (II Corinthians 3:5-6)
- 5) Paul was a minister of the New Testament; not of the letter but of what? (II Corinthians 3:6)
- 6) On what was "ministration of death" written? (II Corinthians 3:7)

7) What quality is ascribed to this “ministration of death written and engraved in stones? (II Corinthians 3:7)

8) The ministration of condemnation was glorious but what ministration exceeded it in glory? (II Corinthians 3:9)

9) The ministration of righteousness excelled the ministration of condemnation in glory so that the ministration of condemnation had no what? (II Corinthians 3:9-10)

10) Which is more glorious the law of Moses or of Christ? (II Corinthians 3:6-10)

11) State basis of Paul’s plainness of speech. (II Corinthians 3:12)

12) What did Moses place over his face for the children of Israel? (II Corinthians 3:13)

13) Even in Paul’s day whose minds were minds were blinded by a veil when reading the Old Testament? (II Corinthians 3:13-14)

14) When in Paul’s day when was the veil upon the hearts of the children of Israel? (II Corinthians 3:13-16)

15) Who can remove the veil from the hearts and minds of the children of Israel? (II Corinthians 3:13-17)

16) What exists where the spirit of the Lord is? (II Corinthians 3:17)

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
  
- 2) Who was Paul's "epistle of commendation"? (1-2)
  
- 3) What writing instrument had Paul used to make the Corinthians an "epistle of Christ"?  
And upon what had he written? (3)
  
- 4) Who made Paul sufficient as a minister of the new covenant? (5-6a)
  
- 5) Of what is the new covenant? And what does it give? (6b)
  
- 6) How is the "old covenant" described in verses 7-9?
  
- 7) How is the "new covenant" described in verses 7-9?
  
- 8) What is said of the glory of the old covenant when compared with the glory of the new covenant? (10)
  
- 9) How else are the old and new covenants described in verse 11?
  
- 10) What remains on the heart when only the Old Testament is read? (14-15)
  
- 11) What happens when one turns to the Lord? (16)

12) In turning to the Lord, who is it one is actually turning to, and what does one find? (17)

13) As we behold the glory of the Lord with unveiled face, what happens? (18)

14) By whom does this transformation take place? (18)