

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 5 - The Glory of the New Covenant - 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

2CO 3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? [2] You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. [3] You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2CO 3:4 Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. [5] Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. [6] He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2CO 3:7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, [8] will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? [9] If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! [10] For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. [11] And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

2CO 3:12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. [13] We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. [14] But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. [15] Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. [16] But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. [17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18] And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect* the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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48. Who might have needed letters of recommendation? Why? (3:1)
49. In what sense were the Corinthians a record of Paul's values and concerns? (3:2-3)

50. In what sense were the Corinthians a record of God's values and concerns? (3:2-3)
51. Where did Paul get his competence? (3:5-6)
52. What's the difference between the letter and the Spirit? (3:6)
53. What ministry brought death? (3:7)
54. Why could the Israelites not look at Moses' face? (3:7)
55. What faded away? (3:7, 11)
56. What is the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant? (3:11)
57. What hope did Paul have? (3:12)
58. Why was Paul bold? (3:12)
59. Why did Moses cover his face with a veil? (3:13)
60. Why do people fail to understand their need for salvation? (3:14)
61. What must people do to have the veil that covers their hearts taken away? (3:16)
62. What does the Spirit of the Lord offer believers? (3:17)
63. How is it possible for us to reflect the Lord's glory? (3:18)
64. How does the glory of the new covenant differ from that of the old covenant? (3:18)