

## *The Glory That Excels (2 Cor 3)*

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**Introduction:** The Corinthians had a sight problem because they failed to see the priorities of God.

- A. God's glory cannot be seen when its man's glory they seek!
  - 1. This problem was evident in Paul's first epistle. (**1 Cor 1:11-12; 3:5-7; 4:6**)
  - 2. In the second epistle the problem has reached this stage. (**2 Cor 10:12**)
  - 3. Sadly Paul had to defend himself against false charges from these men because they viewed him as a competitor for this human glory. (**2 Cor 7:2; 10:10**)
- B. In this kind of carnal atmosphere men will miss something far greater ... the exceeding glory of God. (**John 5:43-44**)
  - 1. It was judaizing teachers that were appealing to the carnality of brethren in their attempt to mix the Old and New laws.
  - 2. Paul wants these Christians to see God's past, present and future glory.

### **I. The Sufficiency of God. (3:1-6)**

- A. Paul's work with the Corinthians gave him an easy defense of his ministry. (**3:1-3**)
  - 1. What they actually are in Christ came through Paul's work.
  - 2. Paul could make a point like Peter where he can appeal to their own personal memory. (**Acts 2:22**)
  - 3. His work was personal and done as a servant for their good. (**Acts 18:8; 1 Cor 4:15**)
  - 3. If Paul was not a real apostle, then what would that make the Corinthians? (**1 Cor 9:1-2**)
  - 4. Real evangelism must take place in opening hearts and involving yourselves with people. It cannot be done at a distance hiding in an office.
  - 5. This is a struggle for the mind. Paul tried to appeal to a logical consistency. Satan uses emotions and deceit to veil and close the mind.
  - 6. Can you tell who really cares for you? (**Gal 4:17**) (Ex. Disciplining Movement)
- B. The sufficiency comes from God. (**3:4-6**)
  - 1. Sufficient = able or competent. This shows the power and wisdom of God!
  - 2. Earlier the sufficiency was shown in the way God has revealed the gospel. (**2:16**)
  - 3. Now the writing of God's word on the hearts of the Corinthians is another example of the power of God. (**3:5-6**)
  - 4. The power is not in men but the gospel of Christ. (**2 Cor 4:2, 5**)
  - 5. If the gospel is not written on our hearts we have never been converted! (**Rom 8:9; Heb 8:10-11; 10:16-17**)
  - 6. How does the Holy Spirit write upon our hearts? (**Eph 1:13; 3:3-5**)

## ***II. The Glory that Excels (3:7-11)***

- A. The Old Testament Law was a ministry of death? Why?
  - 1. Because it was never meant in itself to save. Men could not keep it perfectly. **(Heb 8:6-8,13; Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:20)**
  - 2. God wanted men prepared to receive their Savior. If salvation came through the law then Jesus died in vain. **(Gal 2:19-21)**
  - 3. How then were those under the first covenant saved? **(Heb 9:15-16; Rom 4:1-6)**
- B. When the two covenants are compared one is “better” or “more glorious”.
  - 1. This is illustrated by the veil placed upon Moses face.
  - 2. If they could only truly see this glory, then they would have know about the utter emptiness in pursuing men’s praise.
  - 3. Do we understand the awesome glory of the forgiveness of sin in Christ? **(Jn 1:16-17)**
  - 4. It is possible for one to enter a local church with little understanding of what it really means to be a Christian. Satan looks to exploit these. **(1 Cor 3:1-3)**

## ***III. The Blindness of Israel (3:12-18)***

- A. We have a hope and a confidence that causes us to stand up and speak!
  - 1. Do you see the glory? Are you also compelled to speak? **(2 Cor 4:13-14; 5:10-11)**
  - 2. Why do we exist as a church? Is it the glory that excels or our current status among men?
- B. Israel however continued looking at the earthly side of things and thus was blind. **(3:14-15)**
  - 1. Why were they blind? They failed to have honest hearts. **(Luke 8:15)**
  - 2. If you talked to these men they would point you to their heritage, the temple and many things God had done in the past. Jesus had deal with such things from the Jews. **(Matt 3:9-10)**
  - 3. This blindness was foretold. **(Matt 13:15)**
  - 4. I have learned that most men do not want to think and do not want to see.
- C. The only way to recover the mind is found in repentance. **(3:16)**
  - 1. It is remarkable how Satan can lead smart men into very apparent foolishness but they will not see. **(4:3-4)**
  - 2. This is why we cannot play with sin. **(1 Tim 4:1-2)**
  - 3. On the other hand, look at the incredible transformation that God can work in us over time. **(3:16-18)**
  - 4. Can you see the glory? Your heart and your mouth will be filled with praise! **(Rom 8:29)**

***Conclusion:*** Yield your heart to God. Open your eyes and see the glory!