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2 Corinthians 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

2 Corinthians 3.

Topics.

- The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- Our sufficiency is from God.
- The glory carved in letters on stone is surpassed by the glory of the Spirit.
- The ministry and glory of the law and of the Spirit.
- The Lord Jesus Christ removes the veil from the mind.
- To this day, when Israel reads the Old Covenant the veil remains unlifted.
- Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- We are changed into something of the same image.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Paul told the Corinthian church to accept the man who had been lying with his father's wife back into their fellowship and about preventing satan from getting an advantage over them. He spoke of being saved and of those who are a fragrance of death to some while being a fragrance of life to others. The chapter ended with Paul saying that they are not peddlers of God's word as some men are.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

- In certain chapters this letter is written as though Paul is having a conversation with the Corinthians (i.e., he asks them a question and then answers it etc.).
- Though Paul's letter is directed to the Corinthian church the content applies to any church or believer in the same situations.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-4

The Letter Kills, but the Spirit gives Life.

- **2 Corinthians 3:1-4:** Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

Paul is saying that neither he nor those ministering with him need a religious certificate from the established religious leaders to prove he or they are approved of by God or the Lord Jesus Christ, rather their evidence of approval are those they are ministering to. To share the Good News of the Gospel no-one needs a document from any religious organisation since the fruit of their ministry will evidence whether they are ministering in the letter of the law or the spirit of grace. The words:

- Written on our hearts, to be known and read by all (v2).

Means that the love and care Paul and those with him have for the Corinthian brothers and sisters can be seen by all and the words:

- You are a letter from Christ delivered by us (v3).

Firstly, means that wherever a brother or sister of the Corinthian church go they are a like a living letter from Paul to whoever they come in contact with and secondly, they are in this way a reflection of Paul and those who minister with him, i.e., the assembly reflects the character and ministry of those they are under. The following verse:

- Written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (v3).

Is contrasting the Law of Moses with the Good News of the Gospel of grace, following the ceremonial Law of Moses written in stone by the finger of God involved legalistically keeping religious ceremonial rites, holy Sabbaths and feast days, and making regular sacrifices and offerings to God. In contrast to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ brings about a change in the heart of every repentant sinner who discovers what it cost God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to save them to eternal life. This radical change of heart changes the desires, motivations and ambitions so that those in Christ are in this sense born again with a new passion that desires to honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The words:

- The confidence that we have through Christ toward God (v4).

Refer to the confidence Paul has that the Spirit of God has imprinted on the hearts of the Corinthian brothers and sisters, not with His finger, but by the power of the cross and the 'Good News' of the gospel of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul is confident that it is the Spirit of God (i.e., love, grace and mercy etc.,) that changes the human heart and not the legalistic letter of the law.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6

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Our Sufficiency is from God.

- **2 Corinthians 3 3:5-6:** Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Paul's statement:

- Not that we are sufficient in ourselves (v5).

Means that Paul is fully aware that the power to turn a person's heart toward Christ had nothing to do with him or those with him, he was fully aware that the salvation of those he proclaimed the Gospel message to was not dependent on his cleverness of speech or his charming character or lack of it. He understood that the only power he had was to proclaim the Gospel, how someone responds to it was not in his power. No-matter how much we may manipulate or use cleverness of speech and music to entice a person into accepting the Gospel unless they respond from their own conscious volition their decision is most likely going to be shallow and have no impact in changing the heart. The only person who holds the power a person's heart is that person themselves, it is their heart condition that will determine the outcome of our witnessing if they respond positively to the message God by His Spirit (titled the Holy Spirit) will impute to them righteousness and their heart will be filled with new passions and desires, i.e., ones that desire to honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul knows that if a person's heart is right the Spirit of God move on it as they hear the Gospel message, he is fully aware that it is the word and not the speaker that changes the hearts and lives of people because it is God's Holy Spirit that works on a person's heart through hearing the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Glory Carved in Letters on Stone is surpassed by the Glory of the Spirit.

- **2 Corinthians 3 3:7-11:** Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

The ministry of death, carved in letters on stone obviously refers to the Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments, it is called the ministry of death because it states, "Whoever does not perfectly keep all its commandments is condemned not only to mortal death, but also to eternal death (v9). This ministry of death carved in letters on stone is also called the, law of Sin and Death which states that:

- The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23).

Meaning all who sin must mortally and eternally die. But the Good News is that there is a much higher law that overrides the law of Sin and Death. This divine law (called the, law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus) states that death has no legal right or power to hold in the grave those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, this law supersedes, the law of Sin and Death. This is one of the reasons the Gospel of Christ is called the Good News. All who trust in Christ have been granted the free gift of God which is:

- Eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23) because, "The law of the Spirit of life has set them free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2).

This means that the law of Sin and Death has no power over those who believe in Christ and faithfully follow him. This promise is guaranteed because it is not dependent on our self-effort, but on our faith, this is why the Scriptures state:

- Faith is counted to whoever believe in God who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead who was delivered up to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification (Romans 4:22-25).

And why Paul wrote:

- The promise to Abraham depends on faith in order that it may rest on grace and in this way be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring (Jews and Gentiles) (Rom 4:16).

God in his foreknowledge and knowing human nature knew if He had made eternal salvation dependent on our self-effort there is no-way He could guarantee or promise it to any of us, thus the reason God in His great wisdom made eternal salvation dependent on faith. This is another reason the Gospel of Christ is called the Good News.

NOTE: it is not the Ten Commandments that are at fault, since they are not only perfect, but express God's perfect will, it is our corrupt fallen nature with all its sinful dysfunctions and aberrations (self, ego, pride, greed, lust etc.,) that that are the problem since they prevent all of us from attaining to the perfection the Law demands.

The ministry and glory of the law: the glory the Law came with refers to the following two things:

1. To the moment God gave the law to Moses and to the people of Israel as the following verses show:

- On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of Mount Sinai which was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly and as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder and the LORD came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up” (Exodus 19:16-20).

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God and all the people of Israel were afraid to come near him, but later they came near to him and he told them all that the LORD had spoken and when he had finished he put a veil over his face because the skin of his face was shining (Exodus 34:29-35) such was the Ministry and Glory of the Law.

2. The glory the Law came with refers to its perfection since if every man and woman were able to keep it humanity would live in perfect peace since the spirit underlying each law is love because each law protects the innocent. If the Law regarding mankind was summed up in one sentence it would be written, “Don’t do another human harm, physically, financially, sexually, mentally, emotionally, verbally and spiritually.” If mankind kept the Ten Commandments there would be no adultery, wars, murders, rapes, thefts and such like everyone would be living in safety and without fear. Jesus summed it up in the words:

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22:39) (Mark 12:31).

James in his writings refers to it as the:

- The Royal Law (James 2:8).

Some may say: “They have never committed adultery or murdered anyone, nor have they stolen or raped a woman and therefore they are perfect when they stand before the law,” certainly most of the population can rightly make this claim, but there is one other Law that brings us all undone since it states:

- You shall not covet (Exod. 20:17).

The law (unlike God) does not have mercy or compassion its demand on those that are under it is strictly official, formal and legal and enforced without compassion or any sense of sorrow toward its condemned victims.

The demand of the Law states:

- If anyone fails to keep it in any aspect they are guilty of breaking it.

The law then rightfully and legally judges and sentences its victims to eternal death. It is futile to attempt to attain to righteousness by keeping the law since the law states:

- You shall not covet your neighbour's house, his wife, his very successful business, his new car, beautiful boat or anything that belongs to him (Exod. 20:17).

And the Royal Law states:

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Rom. 13:9).

Jesus says all the commandments regarding mankind are summed up in the words of the Royal Law. The spirit underpinning the Royal Law is, desiring the best for others contrasted to the spirit underlying coveting which is craving the best for self. The commandment “You shall not covet” exposes human selfishness, pride, lust, and greed etc. It reveals the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that are imbedded within our fallen corrupted human nature that hinder us from attaining to the perfection of God’s Holy

Law, it exposes our self-centeredness in our desires for more than we need, our excessive avariciousness toward materialism, our overeating of tasty foods the craving to be important or esteemed, our sensual and lustful thoughts, the desire to be rich and have abundantly more than we need etc. "You shall not covet" shines a spotlight on our self-interest, it highlights our lack of willingness to give to those less fortunate and those in need, our degrading, resentful, bitter or jealous thoughts of others and the list goes on. In summary the command, "You shall not covet" embraces all those attitudes and thoughts that dwell within our members that are contrary to the law of love and the Holiness of God which means the entire human race is held guilty before the Law and therefore the law has legal right and the power to condemn us all to temporal and eternal death which it does without hesitation, compassion or mercy thus the abundant grace and majestic beauty and wonder of righteousness that comes by faith through the 'Good News' of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary of the glory of the law: though the Law came with spectacular awe-inspiring and breathtaking wonder and not only was it perfect in its demands, but also expressed the perfect will of God for all mankind it ended in judging the entire human race to condemnation and sentencing us all to mortal and eternal death (extinction) since not one of us is able to attain to the laws demand, "Thou shalt not covet."

The ministry and glory of the Spirit: the glory of the ministry of the Spirit and of righteousness (v8) is in absolute contrast to the ministry and glory of the law. This is because unlike the legal demands of the Law the ministry of the Spirit is one of mercy, grace, forgiveness, compassion and love and ends in everlasting life and eternal glory. The phrase the ministry of righteousness refers to the Good News of the Gospel in the Lord Jesus Christ which states, God counts our faith in His Son as our righteousness (contrasted to self-effort and attempting to attain to the perfection of the law). Through faith our sins are forgiven and because of our faith we will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory. It is in this way that, the glory of the ministry of the Spirit has surpassed, the ministry and glory of the law, because the ministry of righteousness comes to us through faith and grace in contrast to the, ministry of the law which relies on self-effort.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-16

The Lord Jesus Christ removes the Veil from the Mind.

- **2 Corinthians 3 3:12-16:** Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant (Testament in KJV) that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord the veil is removed.

The words, "Like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end" (v13) means that the glory that shone upon Moses face was destined to end because the Law rather than bring life brought condemnation and death. Though our Old Testament fathers were under the Law they were not saved by the law (since no-one could attain to it) and therefore it brought condemnation not life. Old Testament Israel though condemned by the law were saved by faith as we are in their expectation of the coming of the promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:15), the promised seed of Abraham and promised seed of David their Messiah the Christ spoken of by the prophets and by having a contrite (sorry remorseful and regretful) and repentant heart before God (Psalm 51). But because of their legalistic approach to the law and their hardened hearts (v14) they did not recognise the promised seed their Messiah the Christ when he did come, and until they do the veil which blinds their minds to the glory of the law of the Spirit and of righteousness in Christ will continue to blind them.

To this day, when Israel reads the old covenant the veil remains unlifted: the words, "To this day, when they read the old covenant" (Testament in KJV) that same veil remains unlifted, (v14) is still true today, but the prophet Zechariah tells us a day is coming when that veil will be removed and the Jewish nation will with great mourning recognise their Messiah and Christ.

The Jewish people and Jesus today: though the Jewish nation had the most convincing evidence, the most powerful preaching, the clearest call from Christ himself and from his apostles, ever since the first preaching of the Good News of the Gospel of grace multitudes of them have remained even to this day hardened and blinded to the glory of God's grace in Christ by their obstinacy and unbelief from generation to generation. In (2011) I attended a public meeting in which an Israeli lecturer who travelled the world speaking for the Jews today and about Israel's land and their history as recorded in the Bible. At the end of her lecture the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. One lady asked:

- "How do the Jews view Jesus today?"

The Jewish speakers' answerer was:

- "Our Messiah has not yet come."

There was a sudden silence over the meeting at this moment, then the same lady obviously a Christian quoted a few Scriptures to show that Israel's Messiah did come, the lecturer was kindly patient, but after a short while turned and picked up a Jewish Bible, held it in the air and said:

- "This is our Bible and there is no New Testament in it."

A man stood up and asked:

- "How do the Jewish people view a Jew who converts to Christianity?"

The speakers replied:

- "We would consider that they have left the faith."

As she spoke it was clear that the Jewish people love God and love their Messiah the promised seed of Abraham and David, they just haven't recognised him yet (and even this is in God's eternal plan) but it reminded me of the following fabulous and prophetic words of Zechariah:

- The LORD will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great, the land and the priests shall mourn, and all the families that are left each by itself shall mourn (Zech. 12:9-14).

When this momentous and beautiful moment takes place, the entire world will change as we know it today, and a glorious New Age will begin, one of righteousness, justice, joy and peace because the King of peace will be the Head and Shepherd of all nations.

Only through Christ is the veil removed: the words, "Only through Christ is the veil taken" (v14) imply three things:

- 1 No-one is going to understand the Bible until they accept Christ.
- 2 Until a person accepts Christ they will always try to attain to righteousness by self-effort.
- 3 Until a Christian fully comprehends that it is their faith in Christ that God counts as their righteousness they will at some level almost always hear the condemning voice of the law in their mind (for some it may sound

like a trumpet while for others it can come as a very faint voice in the background of all other noises), but until they understand the depth of the majestic words, "The free gift of God is eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23) the condemning voice of the Law will never be far away.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.

- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18:** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all with unveiled face (open face in KJV) beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The Spirit: in this context refers to grace, mercy, kindness, forgiveness and patience etc., in the book of Galatians Paul says:

- Whoever is led by the Spirit, is not under the law (Gal. 5:18).

And in verse twenty-two he states:

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23).

Thus the Spirit of the Lord is love which means being led by the Spirit is to be led by love since whatever is done within the boundaries of love (as explained in 1 Cor. 13:4-7) will never offend God or cause harm to another human this is why there is freedom in love and the reason there is no law against it. The Spirit of Jesus is love, he manifested perfect mercy, compassion, kindness and justice in that he (at the risk of his own life) spoke against the Jewish religious leaders of his generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes on behalf of his heavenly Father and the lost and innocent sheep of the house of Israel and willingly gave his life over to his enemies knowing he would lay his life down to a cruel, brutal and bloody death so others could have life.

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Jesus is the image of the invisible God

John in his writing's states, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8) and again "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16). Clearly showing that the Spirit of the Almighty and invisible God is love. Paul in Colossians tells us that, "Jesus is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15) meaning that he is a mirror image of his heavenly Father in the following two ways:

1. In His being (i.e., immortal and eternal).
2. In Spirit, meaning the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ is love they are one in perfect love and therefore one in perfect unity and in perfect harmony in everything they do. Therefore, the words, "We are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another as we behold the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18) means the following two things:

As we behold the life of Christ in our minds we will be changed from being self-focused to others-focused, from being selfish to being willing to give, from being driven by ego and pride to being humble and serving which means we will take on deeper levels of love and in this way be changed to deeper degrees of glory and into the same image of Christ as we behold his glory. It means that at the end of our mortal life this body will put on immortality and we will be changed to be like Christ (i.e., an immortal and eternal being).

NOTE: in God's eyes the glory of Christ was not his miraculous powers, but his obedience even to death and the unselfish life of love he lived for others, it is not spectacular achievements, success or miraculous power that God considers glorious but a life that is full of love toward others especially the poor and less fortunate.

We all with unveiled Face.

The word unveiled (open in KJV) means to open or take away. When a human heart receives Christ the veil over the mind is taken away, until then the beauty, wonder and splendour of the Bible cannot be understood since faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the key to unlocking its mysteries. Whoever attempts to unlock the wonders of the Bible without Christ dwelling in the heart is like a man standing at the door of fort Knox not knowing the combination.

Christians are able to look without any veil and see the glory of the Lord: the words, "With unveiled face," (v13) alludes to the fact that the face of Moses was veiled, so the children of Israel could not steadfastly look upon it (Exodus 34:29-35). In contrast from Moses face being veiled, brothers and sisters in Christ are enabled to look upon the Gospel without any veil over their mind and see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this the splendour and glory that shone on Moses face gradually died away whereas the light that is reflected from the Good News of the Gospel message becomes deeper and brighter the more a person looks upon it because its glory is like a polished mirror clearly reflecting the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and the glorious promises and privileges that are in Christ back to those looking into it.

We all with an open face

Paul is saying that "We all" (v18) i.e. not just ministers and preachers, but all believers whether Jews or Gentiles, whether greater or lesser are not like Moses, who had a veil on his face when he delivered the law; nor are we like the Jews who have a veil over their hearts because of the ceremonial law which darkens and blinds their mind to the glory of their Messiah the Christ. In contrast the faithful in Christ are enlightened by the Spirit of God and are converted to Christ as it were, "With an open face," (v18) meaning there is no veil covering the mind to who Christ is nor to his glory (meaning his God given power, his God given honour and favour, his perfect character his manifestation of perfect love and the majestic truth that he is the only begotten Son of God).

Mirrors among Jews, Greeks, and Romans

Mirrors, among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, were made of highly polished metal, they would (especially in strong light) reflect and greatly illuminate the face by its strongly reflected light. It is to this reflection Paul is alluding to. The symbolism is that by earnestly contemplating the words of the Lord Jesus Christ and believing on him the mind becomes illuminated with his divine splendour, as the Gospel mirror reflects back on to those in Christ the image of the Lord whose perfections the word of God shines a floodlight on.

Paul is saying that it is not only through this reflection that we see the glorious form and character of Christ but also that it is by its light our minds are fashioned and by its influence our character is changed into the same image which we behold so vividly and devotedly in our minds.

Beholding as in a glass

The words, beholding as in a glass (v18) is not referring to the law and the ordinances of it, but rather to the Good News of the Gospel and the grace, mercy, love and life proclaimed in it. It is not through the natural eyes of the body that the phrase, beholding as in a glass is referring to, but the spiritual eyes of our understanding and the spiritual sight we have through our faith which throws a veil over all other obstacles that would have previously hindered and stopped us from longing above all things to be with Christ, in this way Christ who we behold in our mind influences us to become like him. This principle of being transformed into what we behold is because of the spiritual law that God has engraved into our human nature: this law states:

- The object we behold in our mind influences us to become like it (2 Cor. 3:18).

This means the following three things:

1. We are molded in our moral feelings, by the persons with whom we associate with and by whom we envision in our imaginations and who we think and meditate about in our minds.
2. We consciously and unconsciously become conformed to those with whom we strongly admire and have social contact with.
3. We absorb the opinions, we copy the habits, we imitate the manners, we fall into the customs of those with whom we highly esteem and have daily conversation with and with whom we make our companions and friends. Their sentiments become our sentiments and their ways our ways.
4. We absorb the opinions, the ideas, the principles contained in books we love, esteem and are familiar with.

We are molded into conformity to the opinions, sayings, principles and feelings which are expressed by those we admire, esteem and exalt and in this way our own opinions, feelings, views, thoughts, ideas, attitudes and emotions undergo a gradual change as we behold in our minds the one we exalt and give ourselves over to the image we have established of them in our minds we become in this manner likened to them and are gradually formed into their image (good or bad). It is on this same great principle that Paul says that by contemplating the glory of Christ in the Gospel his image will be reflected on us. We shall catch and absorb his opinions, feelings, views, thoughts, ideas attitudes and emotions and be molded into the image of his character. Such is the great and wise law of our human nature. It is on this principle and by this means that God has designed that we should be, made like Christ on earth in character' (i.e., grace, mercy, compassion and love etc., and become conformed to his image and made like him).

From one degree of glory to another: mirror, in the context of the following verse:

- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known (1 Cor. 13:12).

Carries the idea of looking in a mirror (being the Gospel) that is brilliantly and openly reflecting the glory and countenance of the Lord Jesus Christ the verse is one of great beauty and is designed to set forth the Gospel as being the reflection of the infinite glories of Christ to the minds and hearts of those who seek him. Now in part i.e., means we see Christ in our minds through the Gospel, but when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth we will see him face to face. For further information on the Lord's return, see the title:

- New World Order Established on Earth.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

God shining from heaven, beaming on the Gospel, reflecting Christ

The mirrors of the ancients were made of burnished metal and reflected images with great brilliancy and distinctness. The symbolism is that the Gospel reflects the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was, so to speak the polished, burnished substance (mirror) in which the glory of the Lord shone and where that glory was so highly brightened that its reflection could be seen by all who had faith in Christ. There was no veil over it; no obscurity; nothing to break its dazzling splendour or to prevent its meeting the eye. Anyone (with a right heart) by looking on the Gospel could see the glorious perfections and plans of God as bright and clear and brilliant as they could see a light reflected from the burnished surface of the mirror. The picture is one of the glorious perfections of God shining from heaven and beaming on the Gospel and thereby reflecting Christ to the mind and the heart of those seeking him and of Christ influencing them in such a manner that they are slowly and gradually transformed into the same image.

Reflecting Christ's glory

The more we behold the brilliant and glorious light of the Gospel, the more we reflect back its rays i.e., the more we anticipate, meditate, consider and envision it's grace and think about it's Good News of mercy, divine forgiveness and love and its promise of immortal life and everlasting glory the more our minds become saturated, impregnated and permeated with the Spirit of the Gospel and the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ and in this manner our character is changed and we become a reflection to others of the one we behold.

Six steps that show how the Good News of the Gospel gloriously contrasts the law

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1. When God's glory appeared on Mount Sinai it made the people of Israel so afraid of death that they cried to Moses, "Let not God speak to us anymore, lest we die (Exod. 20:19) (Deut. 18:16) and Paul tells us that in receiving the law they also received the spirit of bondage to fear (Rom. 8:15). In contrast to this those in Christ have been given the Spirit of power and love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7) and the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, "ABBA, Father!" (Rom. 8:15) (Gal. 4:6). The author of Hebrews alludes to these contrasts and difference in his writings in (Heb. 12:18-24).
2. Moses with all his glory was the minister of the law written on tablets of stone which only gave the Jews the letter that killeth whereas the apostles were ministers of the Gospel written on the hearts of those who believe and imparts the Spirit that gives life.
3. The glory which Moses received at the giving of the law slowly diminished over time, because it was to vanish away, whereas the glory which is received from Christ is an increasing glory and his message and divine influence remain forever.
4. The law was veiled under types and shadows and many ceremonious rites, but the Good News of the Gospel has scarcely any ceremonies and the whole doctrine of Christ crucified and resurrected is made as plain and as clear as human language can make it.
5. The Jews only saw Moses face shining through a veil, whereas those in Christ see clearly with an open face through the shining glory of the Gospel the miraculous and perfect life of the Lord Jesus Christ; the perfect image of God and the perfect example of His will manifested in love, grace, mercy and compassion toward others.

6. Israel saw the law through a veil which prevented the reflection of it shining upon them and so the glory of the law only shone on the face of Moses and not upon all the people of Israel, whereas the glory of the Gospel shines on Christ, as a mirror which reflects the image of the Lord upon those who believe so that they are transformed into the image the glass of the mirror reflects. Thus, we find that in everything the Good News of the Gospel with its message of diving forgiveness, grace mercy and love is by far superior to the law with all its legalistic rules, statutes and institutionalized traditions and religious customs.

The veil removed

The Old Testament fathers who lived under the law had only cloudy and passing glimpses of their Messiah the Christ and glorious Saviour who was to be put to death and rise again. Though many prophets spoke of the Lord Israel's vision of him was veiled in their minds and upon their hearts. Whereas today the veil is removed, God's plan of eternal salvation is made clear since Israel's Messiah the Christ has come into the world, as the perfect image of God, and his death and resurrection is made as plain and as clear (as human language can make it). The veil is now taken away by the arrival of Christ to this earth. When a person is converted to Christ the veil of ignorance is removed and those who are converted not only enjoy and believe the Gospel, but their heart is transformed to live in a manner that desires to honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, because God's light has entered into their mind and now with open face behold the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.