

GAZING AT GOD'S TRANSFORMING GLORY

Christ is a _____ glorious _____. (vs. 7-12)

Christ _____ us to _____ God's glory. (vs. 13-16)

_____ at God's glory transforms us into His _____. (vs. 17-18)

TRANSFORMED

2 Corinthians 3:5-18

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

^[7] 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, ^[8] will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ^[9] For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ^[10] Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ^[11] For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

^[12] Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ^[13] not 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. ^[14] But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ^[15] Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ^[16] But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ^[17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ^[18] And we all, with unveiled face, beholding 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. (ESV)

Gazing at God's Transforming Glory

July 11, 2021

Open: How do you go about changing long-standing patterns in your life?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

1. In verses 7-9, how does Paul demonstrate that ministry under the New Covenant is more glorious than under the Old Covenant? Why would Paul refer to ministry under the Old Covenant as "the ministry of death" (v. 7) and the "the ministry of condemnation" (v. 9)?
2. Even though the New Covenant is more glorious than the Old, the Old Covenant still had glory (vv. 10-11). In what ways was there glory in the Old Covenant? What role, if any, should the Old Covenant have in our lives today?
3. What does Paul mean by "ministry of the Spirit" in verse 8? How do we share in that "ministry of the Spirit"? Why should the truths that Paul has been discussing in this passage give us hope, and therefore boldness, in our ministry (v. 12)?
4. How would you explain the nature and role of the veil mentioned in verses 13-16? Why do we not need to cover our faces with a veil "like Moses" (v. 13)? How should the existence of a veil over the hearts of unbelievers (vv. 14-16. See also 2 Corinthians 4:3.) shape our approach to evangelism and discipleship?
5. Paul says "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (v. 17). In what ways do those under the New Covenant have a "freedom" that those under the Old Covenant did not have? How should this freedom affect the way we approach God?
6. How do we go about "beholding the glory of the Lord" (v. 18)? How does beholding God's glory help lead to transformation in our lives? What evidence have you seen of this transformation in your own life? Where are you still hoping for transformation to occur?

Apply: What can you do this week to better behold the glory of the Lord?

Pray: Ask God to help us more joyfully and faithfully behold His glory and be transformed more into His glory. Pray for those you know, that the veil over their minds will be removed.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

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