

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 2

REVIEW/CONTEXT

- 2:12-17** Christian ministry that is centered on Jesus Christ will always be triumphant before God.
- 3:1-6** The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is a glorious reality of the Gospel.

EXPOSITION

- I. The glory of gospel ministry eclipses the faded glory of the Mosaic Law’s ministry. (3:7-11)

<i>Paul makes the same argument four times, but with greater development each time!</i>		
	Old Testament Mosaic Law	New Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ
3:7-8	<p>1. Ministry of _____.</p> <p>2. Carved in letters of _____.</p> <p>3. Israel could not _____ on the brightness of its glory.</p> <p>4. But, its _____ was in the process of coming to an end.</p>	<p>1. Ministry of the _____.</p> <p>2. Must have _____ glory than the “ministry of death” that has ended.</p>
3:9	<p>1. Ministry of _____.</p> <p>2. Did have glory in the _____.</p>	<p>1. Ministry of _____.</p> <p>2. Its glory far _____ the glory of the Mosaic Law.</p>
3:10	<p>Even though it had God’s _____ attached to it in the past, it has now been _____ of its glory.</p>	<p>The glory of the gospel (of Christ) has _____ the temporary glory of the Mosaic Law.</p>
3:11	<p>Even though it came in glory in the past, it has been brought to a definite _____ (through Christ).</p>	<p>The _____ gospel (of Christ) has infinite glory and will never end (like the Mosaic Law has ended).</p>

II. The glory of gospel ministry enables Christians to share the good news of Jesus Christ with hope-driven boldness. (3:12-18)

<i>Paul makes a contrast between Moses veiling the effects of the glory of God and the Church boldly shining forth the bright glory of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.</i>		
	Moses and the Nation of Israel	Christ's Church ("Christians")
3:12-13	<p>1. Moses was not bold in showing his face but put it under a _____.</p> <p>2. Most of the Israelites had _____ that were hardened.</p> <p>3. Therefore, they could not (and did not want to) gaze on the _____ of God's glory that shone on Moses' face.</p> <p>4. This glory on Moses' face was temporary because (a) he would die on day, and (b) because the Mosaic Law would also come to an end (or "die").</p>	<p>1. Christians have a _____ (vs. 11) hope through faith in Christ's gospel.</p> <p>2. This permanent, eternal hope propels Christians to be _____ in shining forth the glory of the Gospel of Christ by sharing it with others.</p>
3:14	<p>Israel as a nation is still unable to see the full glory of God because it is still _____ from them. Why? Because they refuse to break away from the _____, covenant—the Mosaic Law.</p>	<p>Since the _____ covenant has passed away, the full glory of God can only be seen through the good news (or _____) of Jesus Christ.</p>
3:15-16	<p>Whenever people put their faith in trust in the Mosaic Law for salvation, then God's _____ is hidden from them.</p>	<p>BUT—when anyone _____ to "the Lord" by not rejecting the glory of God and putting their faith in trust in the truth of His glorious gospel, the Holy Spirit fills them and frees them from the power of sin's blindness (4:3-4).</p>
3:17	<p>The Holy Spirit is fully God ("Lord) and wherever He resides, is believed, and is _____, there is permanent, eternal, glorious freedom!</p>	
3:18	<p>-Christians freely and openly behold God's glory with <u>un</u>hardened _____ through the power of the Holy Spirit! -As Christians behold God's glory each day, they are incrementally ("by degrees") _____ (Romans 12:2!) into the image of Christ ("Lord"). -This ministry of daily transformation is a glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit ("Lord").</p>	

BIG IDEA: The ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ is far better and more glorious than the ministry of the Old Testament Mosaic Law.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

- Why would a professing Christian be ashamed (or not bold) to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others?
- Why would an unsaved individual think that this world can offer them something better than Jesus Christ's gift of eternal life?
- How might a Christian open themselves up to a false teaching that says that the Christians transformation and sanctification is accomplished through works or the Mosaic Law?
- The gospel of Jesus gives permanent, eternal, bold, unashamed hope to Christians!

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION

- We need to better appreciate and submit to the amazing, glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians!
- We need to be bold and unashamed in both living out the truths of the gospel and verbally sharing them with others.
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LOOKING AHEAD

In preparation for next time, read the next section (**2 Corinthians 4:1-6**) and look for connecting themes and words ("glory," "minds," "veil/veiled," etc.).