

Christ is the Message

Sermon 3 in the 2 Corinthians Mini-Series

2 Corinthians 3

I. Ministers of the New Covenant 2:15-3:6

The New Covenant has an even greater ministry than the priests in the Old Covenant, as they declare God's saving grace openly in the church and to the world.

A. His Sufficiency is not of Himself 3:5,6

B. His Message is one of Life and Death 2:15-16

If the Word is faithfully preached, it will bring results, ultimately the result will either be condemnation or regeneration.

C. He must preach as one sent from God 2:17

D. He must preach Sincerely 2:17

E. Above all, he preaches Christ and Him Crucified

F. He preaches under the all-see eye of God 2:17

"in the sight of God we speak in Christ"

We all need to develop this God-consciousness:

II. What is Passing Away and what Remains 3:7-11

v. 3 – tablets of stone – tablets of flesh.

v. 6 – letter of the law which kills – the Spirit which gives life

v. 9 – The ministry of condemnation – the ministry of righteousness

v. 11 – The old is passing away – the new remains.

To sum up why the New Covenant is Superior to the Old in verses 7-11.

1. The laws gives commands, the Spirit causes us to walk in those commands.
2. In the New Covenant the grace of God is seen more clearly.
3. The New Covenant is permanent while the Old was intended to be superseded.

III. The Veil of Moses 3:12-16

- A. Concealment compared to Openness v. 12-13
- B. The Veil Spiritually Remains v. 14-15
- C. The Veil is taken away in Christ v. 16

IV. The Unveiled Face of the Believer 3:17-18

- A. We have Freedom
- B. We are being Transformed
- C. Defining this Transformation

V. The Light of the Gospel 4:1-6

This is a reoccurring theme in 2 Corinthians because of the false Ministers who have set themselves up in Corinth. 3:4-6 --- 4:1-2

B. Three Marks of a Gospel Minister

1. Purity of Motive

We have renounced the hidden things of shame (dishonesty)

2. Purity of Conduct

Not walking in craftiness

3. Purity of Doctrine

Not handling the Word of God deceitfully

B. Truth and the Conscience 4:2b

C. The Light of the Gospel is Christ 4:3-6

1. The god of this world and “blinded eyes”

John Calvin – ““The Devil is called the god of this age in no other way than Baal was called the god of those who worshipped him or the dog the god of Egypt.”

2. Let there be light – and there was light.