

**“Not Ashamed!”**  
**2 Corinthians 3:12-16**

**Introduction:**

1. The Apostle Paul:
  - Was A Bold & Fearless Preacher:
    - Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
      - When You Go Through The Book Of Acts & See All That He Went Through:
        - You May Wonder - Would **I** Have Been So Bold? Could **I** Have Been So Fearless?
  - In Romans 1:16 - Paul Explains:
    - How This Came To Be:
      - He Said - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek!”
      - Paul Really Believed:
        - In The Power Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ To Save **Anyone** From Their Sin:
          - And “**Every** One That Believeth!”
  - The Apostle Paul:
    - Experienced This In His Own Life:
      - And Never Got Over The Grace & The Power Of The Gospel!
        - He Wrote To Timothy - “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; **of whom I am chief!**” (1 Timothy 1:15)
    - And This Is Why:
      - Paul Was “Not Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ!”
        - So - He Had Nothing To Hide:
          - And He Held Nothing Back!
2. And He Explains This Even Further:
  - To The Corinthian Church:
    - In 2 Corinthians 3:12-16 - Which Will Be Our Focus This Morning - Where He Writes:
      - “Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech – OR – We Use Great Boldness – And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: / But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. / But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. / Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away!”
    - There Is A Great Need:
      - For Boldness Today - When It Comes:
        - To The Gospel!
          - Boldness In What We Believe!
          - Boldness In How We Live!
          - And Especially Boldness In What We Say!
        - Can You Truly Say With The Apostle Paul This Morning:
          - “I Am Not Ashamed?”
            - And - In The Words Of Our Text:
              - “I Have Great Boldness & Use Great Plainness Of Speech?”
  - 3. What Does This Mean For Us Today?
    - It Means That:
      - You Are **Clear** - When It Comes To The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
        - You Share The Truth That God Reveals In His Word!
          - The Truth, The Whole Truth, And Nothing But The Truth!
            - But Sometimes, The Truth Can Be A Scary Thing! **IE:** Like The “Memo” Released This Week - Some Wanted It Released / Others Wanted It Hidden! If True - Very Serious & Scary!
            - Many Times People Don’t Want To Hear The Truth About Themselves Or The Truth About The Lord!
          - But Still - You Need To Always Be:
            - “Speaking The Truth In Love!”
              - This Is Boldness!
    - It Also Means That:

- You Are **Complete** - When It Comes To The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
  - Like Paul - You Need To “Declare” – “**All** The Counsel Of God!”
    - Christians Have Nothing To Be Ashamed Of – And Nothing To Hide!
  - **IE**: This Is Different Than So Many Other:
    - Religions & Cults That Are Out There Today!
      - Where There Are Hidden Things & Secret Things That Are Only Revealed To Certain Members!
  - Think About The Secrecy:
    - Of Scientology & The Jehovah’s Witness & The Mormons!
      - **IE**: There Are Ceremonies & Rituals That Take Place In Mormon Temples That Are Shrouded In Secrecy!
    - But The Gospel Is Different!
  - Later - In 2 Corinthians 4:3 - Paul Says “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost!”
    - But Once You Believe In Jesus Christ & Are Saved - “All The Treasures Of [The] Wisdom & Knowledge Of God” Are Open Unto You!
- It Further Means That:
  - You Will Be **Courageous** - When It Comes To The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
    - Again - 3:12 - “We Use Great Plainness Of Speech!” / “We Are Using Great Boldness!”
      - Even Though What You Have To Say About Jesus:
        - Might Be Scorned By The World:
          - You Have Nothing To Hide & You Have Nothing To Hold Back!
  - You Might Wonder:
    - How **Can** I Be So Bold & Courageous?
      - Remember - 3:5 - “Our Sufficiency Is Of God!”
        - If You Need This Kind Of Boldness & Courage - Do Not Try It On Your Own - Or You Will Fail - Instead Go To The Lord!
  - He Will Then Show You:
    - What He Showed To Paul:
      - The “Power” Of The Gospel – Afresh & Anew!
        - We Have A Reason To Be Clear & Complete & Courageous – In A Word – Bold About The Gospel – Because Of:

## 1. **The Great Confidence:**

- We Have In Christ!
  - See This In 3:12 - “Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech - Or - We Have Great Boldness!”
    - Our Boldness **About** Christ Is Based On:
      - Our Confidence & Hope **In** Christ!
  - What Hope Is Paul Talking About Here?
    - He Is Point Back To The Previous Verses:
      - 3:6-11 - That Describe The Glory Of The Gospel!
        - Remember What Makes The Gospel So Glorious?
- According To Verse 8:
  - The Gospel Quickens Us!
    - It Gives Us Life!
      - Because It Is “The Ministration Of The Spirit!”
        - The Holy Spirit Of God!
    - The Old Testament Law:
      - Could Not Do This!
    - The Old Testament Law:
      - Was “The Ministration Of Death!”
        - But The Gospel Is “The Ministration Of The Spirit – And Of Life!”
  - And So - The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Alone:
    - Can Give You Hope:
      - Because Without It – Without **Him**:
        - You Are Spiritually Dead!
      - “Dead In Trespasses And Sins!” (Ephesians 2:1)
    - But Now - If You Are Fully Alive:

- You Can Say - "I Am Not Ashamed!"
- According To Verse 9:
  - The Gospel Justifies Us!
    - It Declares You – A Sinner – Righteous Before God!
      - Because It Is "The Ministration Of Righteousness!"
  - The Old Testament Law:
    - Could Not Do This!
  - The Old Testament Law:
    - Was "The Ministration Of Condemnation!"
      - But The Gospel Is "The Ministration Of Righteousness!"
- And So - The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Alone:
  - Can Give You Hope:
    - Because Without It – Without **Him**:
      - You Are Spiritually Depraved!
    - You Remain "As An Unclean Thing, And All [Your] Righteousnesses [Good Things You Do] Are As Filthy Rags" In God's Sight! (Isaiah 64:6)
  - But When You Come To Jesus Christ - You Are Now Fully Justified!
    - And You Can Say - "I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel!"
- According To Verse 11:
  - The Gospel Remains!
    - The Gospel Will **Always** Be The **Only** Way:
      - To Receive Forgiveness From Your Sin!
    - The Old Testament System:
      - Could Not Do This!
    - The Old Testament System:
      - Was Designed To Fade Away!
        - But The Gospel Is "That Which Remaineth!"
          - It Is What Will Last Forever!
  - And So - The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Alone:
    - Can Give You Hope:
      - Because Without It – Without **Him**:
        - You Have Nothing But Deterioration & Death To Look Forward To!
  - But In Jesus Christ - You Can Look Forward To:
    - Eternal Life & Eternal Fellowship With God!
- And Your Boldness **About** Christ Will Be Based On:
  - **This** Confidence & **This** Hope:
    - That You Have **In** Jesus Christ!

\* Another Reason For Boldness In The Gospel Is:

## 2. **The Great Comprehension:**

- We Have By Christ!
  - See This In 3:13-14 - "And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: / But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ!"
    - Here - Paul Looks Back Again To The Time Of Moses & The Giving Of God's Law!
      - And He Refers To The Time When The Face Of Moses Glowed & Shined From Standing Before The Presence & The Glory Of God On Mount Sinai!
        - Exodus 34:28-35!
  - But - Instead Of Letting The Children Of Israel Continue To See That Glow - In A Clear & Complete Way:
    - He "Put A Vail Over His Face!"
      - Now - Why Did Moses Do This?
        - One Reason - Exodus 34:30 - Because "They Were Afraid To Come Nigh Him!"
    - But Paul - Under The Inspiration Of The Holy Spirit - Gives Us Another Reason:
      - 3:13 - "[So] That The Children Of Israel Could Not Gaze Upon The End Of That Which Is Abolished / Fading Away!"

- The Word “End” Can Also Mean The Purpose & Eventual Outcome Of Something!
- So - What We Learn From This Verse Is That:
  - God Had A Special Design:
    - For His Law - Which Is Described Here Once Again As “That Which Is Being Abolished & Fading Away!”
  - What Was God’s Design & Purpose For The Law?
    - Clearly Revealed In The New Testament!
    - Galatians 3:24 - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!”
    - Romans 10:4 - “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth!”
- So - When Moses Put The Veil Over His Face:
  - He Did So Intentionally:
    - To Show The Children Of Israel That They Needed Something More:
      - Than The Law Of God - In Order To Experience The Fulness Of God’s Glory!
  - And He Used The Veil As An **Object Lesson!**
    - **IE:** They Must Have Been Visual Learners! YouTube Videos! Car / House!
  - Moses Used The Veil To Teach Them & Us:
    - A **Lesson** - That Apart From The Gospel:
- There Is An Inability:
  - To See & To Know The Things Of God!
    - This Is Why Moses “Put A Vail Over His Face!”
      - **They Were Unable To Experience The Fulness Of God’s Glory Because They Were Unable To Keep The Fulness Of God’s Law!**
  - In Fact - After God Delivered The Children Of Israel From Egypt & Established His Covenant With Them:
    - They Committed Themselves To The Lord In Exodus 19:8 - “All that the LORD hath spoken we will do!”
      - But Within Just A Few Weeks Of Receiving God’s Law - What Happened?
        - They Broke The Very First Commandment By Making & Worshiping A Golden Calf!
  - And So - The Veil Over Moses’ Face:
    - Was A Reminder That They Were **Unable To See** & They Were **Unable To Even Seek** After The Things Of God On Their Own!
      - They Needed Something More!
      - They Needed Someone Else!
  - Another **Lesson** Moses Taught:
- There Is An Insensitivity:
  - To The Things Of God!
    - This Is Why Paul Continues In 3:14 And Tells Us That “Their Minds Were Blinded!”
      - **IE:** A Person Who Is Physically Blind Cannot See The Brightness & The Glory Of The Sun! A Person Who Is Spiritually Blind Cannot See The Brightness & The Glory Of God!
      - And This Was Their Problem!
  - But This Is Our Problem Too!
    - The Veil That Moses Put Over His Face:
      - Was An Illustration Of The Veil That Lies Over The Mind & Heart Of Every Person Who Is Without Christ!
      - Back Then & Even Today!
  - Another **Lesson** Moses Taught:
- There Is An Ignorance:
  - Of The Things Of God!”
    - Paul Continues In 3:14 - “For until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament!”
      - Paul Was Specifically Referring To The Jewish People - But This Can Apply To Anyone Who Is Not Saved!
      - There Is A Veil Over The Word Of God Itself!
    - Because - 1 Corinthians 1:24 - “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for

- they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned!”
- Moses Put The Veil Over His Face:
  - To Show You That Your Life Is Marked By:
    - ***Inability, Insensitivity, And Ignorance:***
      - When It Comes To The Things Of God!
      - But Look At What The Gospel Can Do!
  - End Of 3:14 - “Which Vail Is Done Away In Christ!”
    - Jesus Alone Can Do:
      - What The Law Never Could!
    - He Alone Can Open Your Eyes & Open Your Mind & Open Your Will:
      - To The Things Of God!
  - 2 Corinthians 4:6 - “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!”
- So Now - You Can Have A Boldness ***For*** Christ That Is Based On:
  - A New Comprehension & Understanding:
    - ***About*** Christ!

\* A Third Reason For Boldness In The Gospel Is:

## 2. ***The Great Change:***

- That Comes Through Christ!
  - See This In 3:15-16 - “But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. / Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.”
    - Paul Explains That There Remains:
- A Stubborn Problem:
  - For Most Of The Jews In His Day – And Even In Ours!
    - A “Vail” Remains “Upon Their Heart!”
      - And This Problem Extends To Every Person Born Into This World – Jew And Gentile!
  - The Veil Remains!
    - People Do Not See That “Christ Is The End Of The Law!”
      - Instead - People Want To Live According To Their Own Laws & Their Own Truths & Their Own Ways!
      - But Even Still - God Offers:
- A Gracious Promise!
  - 3:16 - “Nevertheless when ***it*** – Refers To Their Heart In 3:15 – shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.”
    - This Is The Only Hope:
      - For The Jews!
    - This Is The Only Hope:
      - For You!
    - In Order For The Veil To Be Removed:
      - From Your Mind & Your Heart & Even God’s Word:
        - You Must “Turn To The Lord” With Your Heart!
    - Remember When Jesus Met Blind Bartimaeus Outside Of Jericho? In Luke 18:41 Jesus Asked Him - “What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight!”
      - Bartimaeus Knew That Only Jesus Could Remove The Veil Of Blindness From His Eyes!
        - And So He Turned To Jesus Alone:
          - Who Also Removed The Veil Of Darkness From His Heart!
          - And Jesus Will Do The Same For Anyone Who Turns To Him!
  - And So - I Want To Finish This Message With:
- A Personal Plea!
  - Have You Turned To The Lord:
    - With All Of Your Heart?
      - It Is The Only Way For You To Have The Veils Over Your Mind & Your Heart & Your Will Removed!
      - It Is The Only Way For You To Understand What It Means To Say “I Once Was Lost, But Now Am Found, Was Blind, But Now I See!”
  - The Bible Teaches That There Will Come A Day:
    - When The Children Of Israel As A Whole Will Turn Their Hearts To The Lord & Be Saved!

(Romans 11:26)

- But What About You? Has That Day Come For You?
- This Is The Great Change:
  - That You Need In Order To Be Bold:
    - In Your Walk With The Lord & In Your Witness For The Lord!
    - The Veil Needs To Be Removed & Taken Away!
  - Without This Change:
    - You Will Never Have **Any** Real Confidence & Hope In Your Life:
      - And There Can Be **No** Comprehension Or Understanding Of The Things That Truly Matter – The Things Of God!
  - So - Make Sure You Have Turned To The Lord:
    - With All Your Heart!

**Conclusion:**

1. And When You Do:
  - You Will Be Able To Understand Why Paul & Every Other Christian Could Say:
    - “I am **not** ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God **unto** salvation to **every** one that believeth!”
    - And Now - You Can Live Your Life:
      - With The Same Kind Of Boldness & Courage!
2. Because Jesus Christ Has Given You:
  - A New Confidence & Hope!
    - A New Comprehension & Understanding!
    - And A Radical Change In Your Heart & Life!
      - So - Do **Not** Be Ashamed Of What Jesus Christ Has Done For You & What Jesus Christ Can Still Do For Others!
  - Remember:
    - You Have Nothing To Hide!
    - You Have No Reason To Hold Back!

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