

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 132—2 Corinthians 3

Introduction: Paul needed no letters of commendation to the Corinthians; they were his own letter. In this chapter Paul stresses that his part in the ministry of righteousness was more glorious than the revelation of the Law. This fact should have caused the Corinthians to appreciate and respect Paul.

Lesson aim: To understand why the ministry of the gospel is more glorious than the ministry of the Law.

The Corinthians are Paul's letter of commendation—2 Cor. 3:1-3

1. Did Paul need to commend himself to the Corinthians: or did he need someone else to commend him? (v. 1)
2. Who was Paul's letter of commendation? Where was this letter written? Who could read this letter? (v. 2)
3. In addition to being a letter of Paul, the Corinthians were a letter of whom? (v. 3) Who cared for this letter?
4. With what was the letter not written? By whom was Christ's letter (the Corinthians) written?
5. Upon what did the Spirit of God not write? Upon what did the Spirit of God write?

Paul shows the abiding glory of his apostolic ministry with the fading glory of Moses' ministry—2 Cor. 3:4-18

1. Paul's confidence was based on what? (v. 4)
2. Did Paul think of his work as coming from himself? (v. 5) Who did Paul know was using Him to save others?

3. God made Paul adequate as a servant of what? (v. 6) How was this new covenant different from the Law?
4. What do you think Paul means by the distinction “of the letter” vs. “of the Spirit”? In what sense did the letter kill? What did the Spirit do?
5. What is the ministry of death? (v. 7) Did the ministry of death come with glory? Where was this glory seen? Did Paul believe the ministry of life (or the Spirit) had more glory or less glory than the ministry of death?
6. The Law was a ministry of what? (v. 9-10) The gospel is a ministry of what? Which then is more glorious on the basis of the results of each?
7. Moses’ ministry in delivering the Law was doing what? (v. 11) The apostle’ work of giving life and liberty through the gospel was doing what? (v. 11) Which then had the greater glory?
8. Because the apostles’ ministry would remain, what did this give Paul? (v. 12) How did it cause him to speak?
9. Moses, recognizing that the glory of his face was fading, did what? Why did he do this?
10. Did the Israelites clearly see the end of Moses’ ministry? (v. 13-14) Instead what happened to them? In a sense, the veil that covered Moses’ face remained how in Paul’s day?
11. What was the only way for this veil to be removed? (v. 15-16) Who is the “Lord” to whom men must turn in order for this veil to be removed from their hearts? (v. 17) What results when men turn to Him?
12. How did Paul and others who were servants of the new covenant differ from Moses? (v. 18) From whom does this glory come? How does it come? What is the nature of this glory?