

11 Corinthians 3: 6-18 The Wonders Of The New Covenant 12/7/2025

Intro: Matthew 27:50-54 A new nearness to God prophesied long ago has now been established by the death and resurrection of Jesus. The covenant made in Jesus' blood brought radical changes in the way man relates to God.

1. Our passage today wants to bring out the permanence of the New Covenant as opposed to the Old Covenant, which by its very nature, was temporary.

2. Our passage also brings out the incredible liberty we have in our relationship to God:

Ex. Galatians 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

Ex. Acts 13:38-39 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."

Ex. Acts 15:8-11 "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them (Gentiles) giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us (Jews); and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their heart by faith. Now why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

Text: 3:1-18 (Focus Today on 3:6-18) *****

Paul uses subtlety in the meanings of the word "Adequate (4 times)" "Letter (6 times)" and "Glory (13 times)" "Ministry (4 times)" from 2:16-3:18

3: 1-6 "The Letter," meaning the Mosaic Law code. The Law can only condemn. The Holy Spirit in a person when they believe in Jesus gives vital new life! The Spirit gives life! A new mind and new power to live differently and progressively improve!

3:7-8 No more up and down. Like the sun eclipses the light of the moon when it had fully risen. Continued animal sacrifices that gave a picture that sin is costly, but did not handle the problem of sin in a permanent way. (Hebrew 8:6-10,13 10:1-4)

3:9-13 3:7 "Fading as it was" 3: 13 "the end of what was fading away" You can feel the sadness in this. Palatable.

3:14-15 True for both Jew and Gentile, but for different reasons. Jews think they can be right before God by trying really hard to fulfill the Law and have a self-righteousness to present to God; Gentiles want to boast in their philosophies to save them. Both try a self-effort, and both fail! (1 Cor. 1: 18-24).

Ex. 11 Cor. 4: 3-4

3:16-18 “Unveiled face” - Direct line of communication and acceptance! Christ made us acceptable, not we ourselves! The veil was torn in the temple when Jesus died; has a very personal application as real freedom in knowing God that is now available to you! No veil between you and God!

Jesus “fleshed out” the character and love of God to us! The glory of the Lord is experienced by us the more time we spend with Jesus! We become like someone we admire, and take on their traits.

Since Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to us, we now have a life being transformed daily that does not hit rock bottom and then back to the top; but rather one that goes from one step of maturity to the next. No upper limit either! “Glory –to- glory!”

Final: Hebrew 4:12-16

The scariest passage and yet the most comforting passage in the N.T.