

## II Corinthians 3 – Paul’s Glorious Ministry

1. Regarding Letters of Recommendation, 1-6a
  - a. One reason for the false allegations against Paul was his lack of a letter of recommendation, 1
  - b. Paul’s critics analyzed: probably Judiazers (Jewish Christians who legalistically held onto the Law of Moses and attempted to make it binding for Christians). They peddled a “counterfeit” gospel, religious racketeers. Judiazers boasted they carried letters of recommendation from important persons and churches/ They said Paul didn’t have one, 1.
  - c. Paul’s defense: 2-6 He needed no credentials from church leaders. Corinthian church was a “living epistle” and they were his letter of recommendation.
  - d. Paul did not prohibit sending letters of recommendation to churches – see Philemon, I Cor. 16:10, II Cor. 8:23
2. New Covenant is More Glorious than Old Covenant, 6b-18
  - a. God made Paul a minister of the new covenant, 6b. Old covenant is described as “the letter;” new covenant as “the spirit.” Note: the “ministry of death” killed and not the old law or covenant.
  - b. Paul did not deny the glory of the old covenant, 7.
  - c. In arguing from the lesser to the greater, Paul affirmed that the glory of the new covenant was better, 7-13. Why?
    - i. Old covenant written on stone, new covenant engraved upon the heart, 7, Jer. 31:27-34, Ezek. 11:14-21, Heb. 8:10-13.
    - ii. Old covenant was glorious but new covenant was exceedingly glorious, 8, 10
    - iii. Glory of old covenant was fading while glory of new covenant is increasing, 7, 13, cf. Ex. 34:29-35
    - iv. Ministration of old covenant condemned while new covenant produces life, 6, 9
    - v. Old covenant was abolished while new covenant is eternal, 11, 13
  - d. Paul affirmed that boldness characterized his proclamation of the new covenant, 13. Courage was one distinguishing mark of a new testament preacher – Ac. 4:13, 29, 31
  - e. Paul interpreted the veiled face of Moses as an attempt by Moses to conceal from the Israelites the fading nature of the glory which accompanied the establishment of the old covenant at Mt. Sinai, 11, Ex. 24:29-35
  - f. Paul taught that in the veiling of Moses’ face there was an analogy of the veil which laid presently over the minds of many of his Jewish brethren and particularly the Judiazers in Corinth when they read and interpreted the old covenant, 4-15, Mt. 13:13-17, Rm. 9:1-3
  - g. Paul assured his readers the veil was taken away in Christ, 16. How?
    - i. Turning to the Lord, 16
    - ii. Hiding nothing from him, 18
    - iii. Looking intently into the Word of God, 18
  - h. Mirror, a symbol of the Word of God, Js. 1:22-25. As we look into the mirror, we are changed – transfigured, Mt. 17, Mk. 9 – an outside change that comes from the inside – metamorphosis.

©2017, 2020 Justin D. Reed  
 Post Office Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190  
[thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources](http://thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources)