

or mirror, the glory of the Lord? (II Corinthians 3:18) _____

THIRD STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT MINISTERS

DECLARE THE WORDS OF CHRIST (II Corinthians 3:1-5)

Paul begins this part of his letter affirming the fact that he needs no recommendation by letter or verbally from anyone to them.

1. (a) Who does Paul say in II Corinthians 3:2, is the only epistle he needs to commend himself and his fellow laborers to the Corinthian believers? _____

(b) Where does Paul say this particular epistle is written? (II Corinthians 3:3) _____

(c) They, the Corinthian believers, were referred to as the “epistle of Christ” ministered by Paul and his fellow workers. With what does Paul say this letter was written? (II Corinthians 3:3) _____

This *epistle* Paul is speaking of here, refers to the Corinthian believers themselves. They are written in Paul’s and the other’s hearts; . . . *not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart* (II Corinthians 3:3).

He goes on to say, that he and the other ministers are only allowed to say these things about themselves . . . *because of their trust in God through Christ, that He will help them be true to what they say*

(II Corinthians 3:4 LB).

2. Knowing that ministers are not sufficient in themselves; to think they are something special; then from what source does their sufficiency come? (II Corinthians 3:5) _____

THE MINISTRY: SPIRITUAL AND GLORIOUS/
NOT LEGAL (II Corinthians 3:6-18)

Not of the letter (II Corinthians 3:6). Not of Moses, but of Christ. Paul declares the letter of the law (Mosaic law) to be the ministration of death (II Corinthians 3:6,7). There were Old Testament blood sacrifices, made continually, of animals, for atonement of the sins of God's people.

1. (a) From II Corinthians 3:6, what does the letter do? _____
(b) But the Spirit does what? (Same verse) _____

For the letter killeth. The letter makes us aware that we are spiritually dead (see Romans 6:23); but **the Spirit giveth life**, life eternal. When we are born of the Spirit, we receive eternal life (II Corinthians 3:6; see John 3:1-21).

2. In the . . . *ministration of death . . . engraven . . . in stones* in II Corinthians 3:7: to what does the engraved stones refer? _____

The old way, the dispensation of death, by trying to be saved by keeping the 10 Commandments, ended in death.

Yet that old system of law that led to death began with such glory that people could not bear to look at Moses' face. For as he gave them God's law to obey, his face shown out with the very glory of God -- though the brightness was already fading away. Shall we not expect far greater glory in these days when the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the plan that leads to doom was glorious, much more glorious is the plan that makes man right with God. So if the old system that faded into nothing was full of heavenly glory, the glory of God's new plan for our salvation is certainly far greater, for it is eternal. (II Corinthians 3:7-9,11, LB; see 4:6,7; Exodus 34:33).

3. What was Moses' reason for veiling his face? (II Corinthians 3:13) _____

4. The Jews still think today when they read Moses' writings that obeying the 10 Commandments is the way to be saved. From II Corinthians 3:14-16:

- (a) Where is the veil still located upon these Jews? _____
(b) What will it take for this veil to be abolished? _____

5. As Christians, in II Corinthians 3:17,18:

- (a) What does the Spirit of the Lord bring? _____

- (b) What does the Holy Spirit do for us as we all, with open face beholding as in a glass