



## 2 Cor 3—Ministers of the NC

July 7

**OVERVIEW:** [2 Corinthians](#)

**CONTEXT:** In 2 Corinthians many of the difficult pastoral issues have been dealt with. Paul now is much warmer toward them and pours out his heart. In doing so he still is mindful of past issues. In the opening he deals with suffering, the open knowledge of God in the world and now the ministry of the Spirit, all indicators of the legitimacy of his apostleship, but also a great practical help to the Corinthians. Our chapter today is very deep and rich (and dense!). It draws on many OT examples such as Ex 24, 31, 32, 34 (Moses, the tablets and veil, and the Golden Calf) and Ezk 11 and 36, and Jer 31 (prophecies about the NC).

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (2 Cor 1:3)

- What is the difference between “comfort” today and the Biblical definition of comfort?
- What type of affliction does Paul have in immediate view?
- Why was Paul discussing comfort in the first place?
- How does Paul bless or praise God in his suffering?
- Who is God? Contrast this with notions of God.
- Why is it good news for the believer that God is of “all comfort”?

**READ:** 2 Cor 3

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Vv. 1–2- **What is a letter of commendation? Why does Paul not need to commend himself as an apostle? What is his commendation (or proof)?**
2. *In St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, there is no plaque about the architect, only the words, “If you seek a monument, look around you.”* **In Christian discipleship, how is the work of the Spirit on the hearts of those being discipled, proof enough for the disciple?**

3. Vv. 4–6- *Paul was an apostle but also a minister. Minister is an English word from Latin meaning servant. In Greek it was deacon (sometimes Deacon if the office was in view).* **Are all Christians ministers/servants of the NC/Gospel or only Pastors/Elders?**
4. V. 6b (see also Ro 2:29 and 7:6). *The letter is good (as we’ll see in v. 7) but cannot give life.* **What did the letter expose of Israel’s heart and bring as a result? Why was the prophesied Spirit needed? What does this speak to the Gospel today?**<sup>1</sup>
5. How are Paul and Moses’ ministries similar yet different?
6. Vv. 7–11- Why was the Law still glorious? Why did Moses face shine? **Why did the Israelites hide their faces? If the Law was glorious but couldn’t change hearts, why is the NC that much more glorious?**
7. Vv. 12–16- Here we have an answer to why Moses veiled his face (Ex 34:33, 35). Why (v. 13b)? Jews, rather than looking forward to the NC cling to what?
8. V. 15- Using the veil differently now, why are Jewish hearts veiled when Moses is read in the synagogue or at home?<sup>2</sup>
  1. Ro 11:25–6 foretells a coming and great revival amongst ethnic Israel. Do you pray for this?
9. V. 16- Yet, if by grace a Jew does believe in Jesus, what is the outcome (think glory)?
10. **V. 17a- How does the Spirit free us under the NC?**
11. V. 18- Like Moses beholding God and receiving His glory (character, likeness), what glorious effect does knowing Jesus and having the Spirit progressively produce in our lives?
12. Why is sanctification progressive?
13. What image does sanctification seek to restore in us from the Fall?
14. **What does it mean to be created, and then restored, into the image of God?**

**NEXT TIME:** July 14- 2 Cor 17, Joy

<sup>1</sup> *The letter kills by judgement, the Spirit gives life by producing changed hearts.*

<sup>2</sup> They fail to see Moses points to Jesus (Dt 18:15).