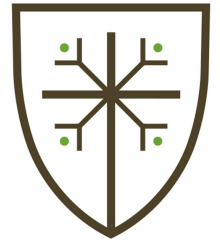


# SERMON NOTES



## New Creations

An Eastertide Sermon Series

artwork by Ty Nathan Clark

April 21, 2024

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Beholding God's Glory"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Adam Radcliff

#### TEXTS

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:4-18

Matthew 13:11-12, 16-17

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it that has the attention of your heart, the thing you behold most?
2. Where have you seen, in your own life or the lives of others, the transforming power of beholding God's glory?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Adam Radcliff continued our Eastertide sermon series with a look at the eclipse that takes place in 2nd Corinthians – the glory of Sinai eclipsed by Christ.

#### Ministry of the Covenants

Every time Paul enters a new city, he finds a Jewish synagogue to preach in. And he testifies that this Messiah, the Christ, for whom they wait was and is Jesus. He argues in order that they and we might not only see but be changed by the glory of Christ. Many people then, and still today, don't see any glory. Or they see glory in something else. The veil that covered Moses face, hiding the glory of God, still remains. Paul brings the Old and New Covenant in close proximity to one another in order to show the total insufficiency of the law to save and the all-surpassing glory of Christ. The effect of the law was to show us how utterly hopeless our condition is. But the law against the backdrop of the gospel shows us our sin and then the glory of the new covenant in Christ. Jesus is the permanent point of the old and new covenant. And Paul's goal in writing is to get us to see the eclipsing glory of the new covenant.

#### Miracle of Sight and Change

Just because something is true doesn't make you believe it. It takes a miracle to see and be transformed by it. Moses on Mount Sinai was transformed by God's glory. It radiated from him and he had to cover his face when with the people because they could not look at him. Paul brings this up to show three things. First, how he isn't like Moses. Paul's life and ministry is on display for the Corinthians to see. He does not hide his encounter with the glory of God but instead is made bold by it. Secondly, Paul shows that we are by nature blind to the glory of God. There's a veil that lies over the human heart. When one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. And when the Spirit works in our hearts, the veil is lifted and we are set free. Thirdly and finally, through Christ we all have access to God. The sight of him will change us.

We are transformed into what we behold. What we gaze at gets our hearts. And the greatest treasure of the gospel is that just as God gets all of us, we get all of God.