

L7: 2 Corinthians 3:1-11: Able Ministers of the New Testament Pt. 2

Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- Paul's defense of speaking in Christ - sufficiency isn't of himself, but of God
- Paul made an able minister of the new testament and its' glory is what Paul is given to give to them.

Sermon Preview:

- What is the New Testament?
 - What are the ministrations of the spirit and righteousness?
 - How is it different from the old testament and its' ministrations?

Sermon:

(2 Corinthians 3:1) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

(2 Corinthians 3:2) Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

(2 Corinthians 3:3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

- **"written not with ink"**
 - **"but with the Spirit of the living God"** - Spirit writing
 - **"not in tables of stone"** - Mosaic Covenant, the giving of the law
 - **"but in fleshy tables of the heart"**
 - Jer. 31:27, 31-34
 - Ez. 36:25-29 (:26-27) - (Ez. 11:19)

(2 Corinthians 3:4) And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

- **"And such trust"**
 - Such confidence, a mind of integrity, veracity
 - Confidence in what God is doing by Paul - that is, the Spirit of the living God is writing things in the tables of their heart.
- **"through Christ to God-ward:"**

- **"through Christ"** - His provision, the blood of the new testament
 - 1 Cor. 11
 - Matt. 26:28
 - Heb. 9:13-14
 - Heb. 12:24

(2 Corinthians 3:5) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

- Paul part in this process isn't by his self-sufficiency to where he would think any thing of himself
- Paul's sufficiency in this process is of God
 - John 1
 - Romans 1
 - Romans 12:3
 - 1 Corinthians 15
- Paul's role in the Spirit writing things on their hearts being of God, but how?

(2 Corinthians 3:6) Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

- **"who"** - God
- **"also hath made us"** - past tense; to cause, to form, to produce
- **"able ministers of the new testament"**
 - God has given in the ability and knowledge and qualification to minister the new testament
 - **"not of the letter, but of the spirit"**
 - Paul is not made a minister of the letter, but a minister of the spirit
 - Rom. 8
 - 1 Cor. 2
 - **"for the letter killeth"**
 - Romans 5
 - Romans 7
 - 1 Cor. 15
 - **"but the spirit giveth life"**
 - Romans 6
 - Romans 8

The Old and New Testaments

- **The Old Testament**

- "the ministration of death" - Rom. 6:21, 8 (sanctification)
- "the ministration of condemnation" - Rom. 2, 3, 5 (justification)

- **The New Testament**

- "the ministration of the spirit" - Rom. 6, 8, 1 Cor. 2
- "the ministration of righteousness" - Rom. 3, Tit. 3
 - Not the land, but the means to be in the land forever
 - Most important covenant of promise upon which the rest are built and will come to pass
 - As God's spiritual means to carry out all other prophetic promises for Christ, it is the means to fulfill mystery promises for Christ.

- **Form**

- Jeremiah 31:31
- Ezekiel 36:25ff

- **End**

- End of Old Testament - Glory done away
 - (2 Corinthians 3:7-11) But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.
 - Cannot change
- End of New Testament - Glory remains
 - (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Ministers of Christ, and Stewards of the Mysteries of God

- 1 Corinthians 4:1
 - Minister of the new testament
 - Partakers of their spiritual things
 - Steward of the mysteries of God
 - The mystery of God
 - Mystery purpose of the new testament

Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize