

## “The Living Letter of my Christian Life,” Part 2 - 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Today's teaching will be part two of a series I've titled, "The Living Letter of my Christian Life."
- For the benefit of those who weren't with us last week we approached this chapter a little bit differently than what we usually do.
- Namely, that of posing specific questions related to how and what my Christian life would read like as a living epistle of Christ.

### 1. Do I pretend to be godlier than I really am? (Verses 7-13)

- v7-8 Paul tells them that the face of Moses had a transitory glory whereas the ministry of the Spirit will be even more glorious.
- v9-10 He says there's no comparison to the glorious ministry bringing righteousness with the ministry bringing condemnation.
- v11 He then says that if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the surpassing glory of that which will last.
- v12-13 Paul says since we have such a hope, we're very bold, because we're not like Moses whose glory was passing away.

- I find it most interesting that Paul would draw upon the account found in Exodus 34 concerning Moses and this for two reasons.
- The first reason is because Moses put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance faded away.
- In other words, Moses didn't want the Israelites to know that God's glory was fading, which is why he would cover up his face.

Exodus 34:33-35 -- 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. 35 And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

- Here's where I'm going with this, like Moses we are prone to cover up the fading glory of not being in the presence of the Lord.
- Often times, the light and glow of having spent time with the Lord will fade over time, when we don't have that time with God.
- What Paul is saying here is we don't have to be like Moses because God's grace is infinitely more glorious and never fades.

- The second reason I find this most interesting is because Moses is a type of Christ in the sense that he represents the Law.

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| Moses was their mediator because of Israel's sin        | Jesus is our mediator because of our sin                        |
| Moses reconciled the Israelites to God                  | Jesus reconciles us to God                                      |
| Moses was born as a Jew                                 | Jesus was born as a Jew   |
| Moses was born while the Egyptian's ruled over the Jews | Jesus was born while the Roman's ruled over the Jews            |
| Moses was born then Pharaoh killed the Hebrew boys      | Jesus was born then Herod killed the Jewish boys                |
| Moses was "fair" when he was born                       | Jesus was the "fairest" of ten thousand when He was born        |
| Moses was rejected by his brothers                      | Jesus was rejected by His brothers                              |
| Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness.                 | Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness                           |
| Moses fasted 40 days when receiving the Law             | Jesus fasted 40 days when He was tempted to break the Law       |
| Moses became a shepherd for his father in law.          | Jesus became the good shepherd for His Father                   |
| Moses set them free from the bondage of Egypt           | Jesus sets us free from the bondage of sin                      |
| Moses worked miracles                                   | Jesus worked miracles   |
| Moses sent out 12 to spy out the land                   | Jesus sent out 12 disciples to go throughout the land           |
| Moses had 70 elders to stand by him                     | Jesus had 70 men that were taught by Him                        |
| Moses washed the feet of Aaron and his son's            | Jesus washed His disciples feet                                 |
| Moses glowed on Mt. Sinai                               | Jesus was transfigured on Mt. Hermon                            |
| Moses constructed the tabernacle                        | Jesus was the tabernacle  |
| Moses cried; "it is finished" when it was complete      | Jesus cried; "it is finished" on the cross when it was complete |
| Moses had to die before they entered the promised land  | Jesus had to die so we could be born again and enter heaven     |

### 2. Do I reflect the image of Christ? (Verses 14-18)

- v14-16 He tells them that to this day, the veil remains when the old covenant is read because only Christ can take the veil away.
- v17-18 He says there's freedom where the Spirit is and that we're being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory.
- It's interesting to note that this very passage explains why it's always so difficult to share the gospel with the Jewish people.

One commentator of this wrote, "The veil over the face of those who live by the Old Covenant blinds their own eyes to the reality and identity of their Messiah, Jesus Christ. That is why you can talk by the hour with Jewish people about the way Jesus perfectly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy—and they still won't see Him as their Messiah. There's a veil over their eyes. And because this veil is done away in Christ, it is only as they turn to Christ that they are able to see clearly."

- I'll take it further in closing and suggest not only is the veil done away with by Christ, we reflect more clearly the image of Christ.
- I'll take it even further and also suggest not only do we reflect the image of Christ; we are transformed into the image of Christ.
- As such, we need to ask ourselves whether or not people see Jesus in our lives when they read the living letter of our lives.

Acts 4:13 -- Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.