

- I) V7-8 INTRO: But if **the ministry of death** written and engraved on stones
Paul has been responding to gossip that has been spread about him
This was disseminated by deceptive infiltrators working to divide the church
- II) **Interestingly**, the problems he deals with are not all theological in nature
Many of them fall under the category of **personal attacks**
They say he is selfish, insincere, indecisive, self appointed, unloving, legalistic,
greedy, unrecognized by the leaders of the church, and labors in the flesh
- III) The fact that these accusations were believed cut him to the heart
It prompted him to write, and share with them how deeply he loved them
2 Co 2:4 For out of much **affliction** and **anguish** of heart I wrote to you, with **many tears**,
not that you should be grieved, but that you might know **the love** which I have so
abundantly **for you**
AS WE'VE SEEN
- IV) (V1) These deceivers were questioning Paul's **ministry credentials** (a 10th charge)
They attempted to undermine him by asking who gave him any **recommendations**
HIS ANSWER
- V) Later in the letter he
2 Co 13:3 he told them You are seeking proof The fact that there was a church in
Corinth should prove he was a true teacher
He said **they** and their **changed lives** were his letters of commendation
- VI) (V3) He had engraved God's word in their hearts when he taught them the Word
The Corinthians were, **in fact**, his letter of commendation authorizing his ministry
WE CLOSED WITH THE 11TH ACCUSATION
- VII) The intruders said he **labored in the flesh**, but Paul made it clear that he did not
He had already addressed this kind of accusation in his first letter
1 Co 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an
apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I
am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly** than they
all, **yet not I**, but **the grace of God** which was with me.
HE LABORED IN GOD'S STRENGTH
- VIII) Paul knew that he was not adequate in and of himself
V5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to think of anything as being of
ourselves but **our sufficiency is from God**

- I) He knew that **without Jesus**, he could not accomplish a single thing that was good
He was not adequate in and of himself, and he knew it and acknowledged it
He made it clear that it takes God to make us adequate to serve Him, faithfully
- II) V5 This why he wrote: our sufficiency **is from God**
My **abilities** are not natural ones but have been spiritually imparted to me
- III) V6 (God has) made us **sufficient** as ministers of the new covenant
Jesus saved him and also equipped him to serve
1 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, **who has given me strength**, that He considered me faithful, **appointing me to His service.**
AS I HAVE SAID
- IV) The false apostles undermining the gospel and Paul are later identified as Jewish
2 Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I
- V) It appears that they were bringing in a mixture of Jewish legalism and grace
This became a problem early in the history of the church
- VI) The first church council ever held was convened to combat this intrusion (Ac 15)
Galatians and Hebrews are both dedicated to combating this error
- VII) This may be why Paul spoke of the **new covenant**, in contrast to the old covenant
- VIII) The old covenant was a lifeless **code** that required perfect obedience
If someone did not keep the law, they came under judgment
Jer 11:3-4 say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Cursed **is** the man who **does not obey** the words of this covenant which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according **to all that I command you**; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God'
- IX) V6 Paul made it clear: The Letter kills, but the Spirit gives life
The letter of the Law revealed our sinfulness and complete lost condition
- X) In contrast to the law, the riches of grace and truth are revealed in Jesus
Paul told the Corinthians that God wrote His law on the tablet of their hearts

I) This fulfilled His promise given through Jeremiah

Jer 31:33 But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it **on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Heb 8:10)

II) Some wonder why this matters: if they are speaking about God, isn't that enough
No, what is said must be accurate, and judgment comes on false teachers

2 Pe 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

III) The gospel message sets captives free, and Paul vigorously defended the gospel
Phil 1:15-16 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for **the defense** of the gospel

PAUL CONTINUES HIS THOUGHT

IV) V7-8 But if the **ministry of death** written and engraved on stones was glorious so
When Moses went on Mt Sinai to receive the law, God's presence was glorious
Ex 34:29-30 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and **they were afraid to come near him**.

V) Moses wasn't aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken to the Lord
The people greatly feared, so after speaking to them he put a veil over his face
He removed the veil when with the Lord, and removed it when with the people

VI) V7 says concerning the glory of his countenance that **the glory was passing away**
The radiance of Moses' countenance faded because **it was not permanent**

VII) The commands Moses received were not God's final word
One of the purposes of the law was to reveal the holiness and glory of God
Ultimately the glory of God would be revealed in the face of Jesus (2 Co 4:6)

- I) This is what John said in his gospel
Jn 1:14 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace
We have received grace upon grace (spiritual blessing upon blessing)
- II) The glory found in the law was pointing to the glory found in Jesus
The glory Moses experienced when receiving the law is exceeded by the gospel
The gospel reveals a glory that will not fade away
- III) V7 The law was glorious, but it ultimately **resulted in death** to man
This is because the law brought knowledge of sin and judgment
- IV) V8 he then asks how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious
If the law of Moses resulted in death, it makes sense that grace is more glorious
- V) The Spirit, giving us life, filling us, teaching us and leading us **is more glorious**
The law **informed** us, but the Spirit **indwells** us, leading from us **from within**
DEVELOP
- VI) In John's gospel, John gives us insight into how **the Spirit** works in our lives
This helps us to understand why **the ministry of the Spirit** is more glorious
Again, the law was written on tablets of stone but the Spirit resides **within us**
- VII) Jn 14 records the last night that Jesus spent ministering to His disciples
He was with them for around three years, and they depended upon Him
ON THAT FINAL NIGHT
- VIII) Jesus broke bread with them and reminded them that He would leave them
They would soon be without His presence but they would still need His help
- IX) With this in mind, He gave them a promise
Jn 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that
He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with you**
and will **be in you**.
- X) Though He was leaving them, He promised to give them **another Helper**
Two different Greek words are translated by the single word **another**
First: Allos: Another of the same substance, essence, quality, or **kind**
Second: Heteros: Which speaks of **a different** kind

- I) Jesus said He would send **allos paracletos**: Another comforter (helper)
HIS POINT
- II) The Holy Spirit would **be like Him**, the same essence and nature as Jesus
The Holy Spirit would provide **for them** the help that they needed **from Him**
- III) This promise gives us insight into why **the ministry of the Spirit** is more glorious
On our own, we are consistent failures: We cannot live a life pleasing to Him
- IV) Though we know what the Lord requires of us, we do not have the ability to do it
Ro 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.
Mt 26:41 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- V) Why is the ministry of the Spirit is **more glorious**
The Spirit is with us and in us, making us able to live **for** Him and to **please** Him
DEVELOP FURTHER
- VI) In the OT, the Spirit would descend on someone and then depart
The awareness of the Spirit being removed from man is found in the psalms
Ps 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- VII) Jesus said the Holy Spirit would empower us to live for God, and remain with us
Jn 14:16 Jesus said the Spirit will **abide with us forever**
- VIII) **A second thing** making the ministry of the Spirit more glorious is **He teaches us**
Jn 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you** all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that **I said to you**.
Jn 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
- IX) **A third thing** that makes His work more glorious is that He guides us into all truth
The Spirit gives us discernment, internally guiding us to recognize deception
Jn 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
- X) Because Spiritual deception is so rampant: He gives us discernment

- I) This discernment can come when listening to something share about Jesus
Your spirit can either bear witness with or reject something as you listen
- II) This is something the Corinthians should have been aware of
2 Co 11:4-5 For if he who comes preaches **another (allon) Jesus** whom **we have not preached**, or if you receive a **different (counterfeit) spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted you may well put up with it
You are putting up with and tolerating a false Jesus, Spirit, and gospel!
- III) The primary way that God's Spirit gives discernment is **from God's word**
2 Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, **for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
FINALLY
- IV) What makes the Spirit's work more glorious? He provokes **deeper love** for Jesus
Gal 4:6 Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father
Ro 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received **the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.
- V) V9 For if **the ministry of condemnation** had glory the ministry of righteousness
The ministry of condemnation (the Law) revealed judgment awaited the lost
The judgment on those who sinned served to exalt God's holiness
- VI) The gospel exalts Jesus and reveals grace, bringing greater glory to God
The thought: Faith in Jesus *results* in righteousness (2 Co 5:21)
- VII) V10 For even what was made glorious had no glory **in this respect**, because of the
The law lost its glory because it has been overshadowed by **the glory** of grace
- VIII) This reminds us of Jesus and His transfiguration
While on a high mountain, He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John
Mt 17:2 His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light
- IX) Moses and Elijah appeared to them and were speaking to Jesus
Matthew points out: Jesus' glory excelled the glory of the law, and the prophets
- X) V11 For if what is passing away was glorious what remains is much more glorious

Grace produces righteousness that far excels the ministry of condemnation

- I) This is because the Law was not written on hearts and the Spirit was not yet given
This makes God's grace more glorious than the Law of Moses

- II) V12 Therefore since we **have such hope** we use great **boldness** of speech
Hope: Confident expectation gives us the courage to speak plainly

THOUGHT

- III) We have **confidence** that our ministry is grounded in the grace of God's gospel
We know that we have been equipped by God, and **confidently preach His grace**

WHAT WAS THEIR SOURCE OF BOLDNESS

- IV) They had a confident belief in the truth of the message

They knew that the gospel was not invented by men, but inspired by God

1 Co 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us **by human wisdom**, but in words taught by the Spirit, **expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words**

THEY KNEW THE GOSPEL WAS TRUTH

- V) 2 Pe 1:19 We also have the prophetic message as something **completely reliable**, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

THE FACT IS

- VI) When **you know** what you are saying is true, your confidence is greater

- VII) V13 unlike Moses who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could
Moses veiled his face, hiding the glory from which the Israelites shrank from

WHY DID HE DO THIS

- VIII) The glory revealed in the face of Moses was only temporary, and faded away

The system of the Law, even when first introduced, would be replaced by grace

Ro 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death

THOUGHT

- IX) The glory **of the gospel** will never fade away

- X) V14-15 But **their minds were blinded**. For until this day the **same veil remains**
They did not see that the Law was intended to reveal Jesus

- XI) V14 **The same veil** remains, but it is no longer on the face of Moses

The veil is now on their hearts and they don't see the purpose of the Law

Gal 3:24 the Law was to be our teacher until Christ came. Then we could have faith and be acceptable to God.

- I) When they read the OT, they do not see the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus
Over 300 prophecies are fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus, from Gen to Malachi
Is 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel
Is 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, thought you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting
Isaiah 53
- II) They did not see the prophecies about His resurrection
Ps 16:10 You will not let Your Holy One see decay
Job 19:25-26 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth
- III) V14 When they come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, the veil is removed
Yossi when he spoke of the true Messiah
- IV) V15 But **even to this day** when Moses is read a veil lies on their heart
They do not see the meaning of their own scriptures
1 Co 2:14 The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned
Mt 13:14 (Jesus said) In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving
POINT
- V) The veil Moses put on was removed, but for Israel it has not yet been removed
- VI) The veil represents **unbelief**: they did not grasp the glory because of unbelief
Like Israel of the OT, the Jews of his day remained **hardened to the gospel**
JEWISH MAN WHO TOOK TRACTS OUT OF OUR HAND
- VII) V17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is **there is liberty**
God, by His grace gives us freedom from the power of and bondage of sin
- VIII) It also breaks the bondage of the yoke of the law
Jn 8:32 You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- I) This liberty is not so we can continue to sin but to be free of its ruling our lives
Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
- II) **Quote:** Wherever the Spirit lives and works, there is liberty, **not only** from Jewish bondage, but from the slavery of sin--from its power, its guilt, and its pollution.
Ro 6:18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness
- III) We have been given grace from God, and the freedom that comes with it
Ro 8:15-16 You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God
- IV) V18 But we all with **unveiled face** beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are Christians can see the promises of the Gospel without turning away
We have an unobstructed view, like when we look at ourselves clearly in a mirror
- V) We are being **transformed**: His glory does not fade from Christians
This is a continual work of transformation as we are made to be like Jesus
Ro 8:29 tells us We are being conformed to the likeness of His Son
- VI) The more we grow in knowledge of Him the more we become like Him
1 Co 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.
- VII) We are being transformed from glory to glory (referring to a steady process)
When we are finally in glory, we will be completed
1 Jn 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.