

- I) V1 INTRO: Since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy we do not lose
REVIEW
- II) Paul had referred to Moses, who had stood before God with an unveiled face
3:13 It was only when **he went before the people** that he put on a veil
HE WENT ON TO SAY
- III) 2 Co 3:18 **We all** with **unveiled face** beholding as in a mirror **the glory** of the Lord
In Jesus, we are now **free** and are no longer under the requirements of the law
- IV) We see the promises of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ
These promises are revelations of God's grace towards us
Jn 1:17 The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ
- V) We obtain these promises **by faith in Jesus**, who fulfilled His Father's commands
Through faith we have been made free from the demands of the law of Moses
Ro 8:1-3 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh
- VI) In Jesus, sin was overcome on our behalf: we are overcomers in Him
Because of this, we do not have to cover our faces in the presence of the king
- VII) As God's children through faith in Jesus, we now have access to our Father
He 10:19-20 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can **boldly enter** heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.
- VIII) 3:18 We are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory
Because of grace, believers can experience transformation into Christlikeness
- IX) **Quote:** The image of the **old evil Adam-nature** becomes less distinct, and the image of **the new man**, after the likeness of Christ, takes its place.
1 Co 15:49 just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

- I) This transformation is **a process** as we move **from** glory **to** glory (V18)
1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.
- II) V18 **Notice**: Beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord
God's word is like a mirror, revealing to us what we are and what God is truly like
- III) As we look **by faith** into the gospel, we see Jesus who is the image of God (4:4)
As God's word reveals who Jesus is it also reveals who we are
This is one reason some won't read the bible: it is a mirror, exposing their sin
ON THE OTHER HAND
- IV) When our sins are revealed, and we can turn from them and begin to change
As we seek Him, we are slowly transformed into His image, from glory to glory
WE NEED TO KNOW
- V) God intends to shape believers to reflect the character of Jesus Himself
It is a progressive work that is made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit
As He works in us, removing sinful habits, He shapes us into Jesus' image
- VI) This shaping us takes place by transforming our minds
Ro 12:2 Do not be **conformed** to this world but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God
- VII) The transforming and renewing of our minds come by **God's word** and **Spirit**
When we love and follow the Lord, the result will be a changed way of living
Eph 4:22-24 (Paul wrote) throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, **let the Spirit** renew your thoughts and attitudes. **Put on your new nature**, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
- VIII) V18 We are **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit
This glory, unlike the glory on the face of Moses, does not fade away
- IX) V18 Being transformed into His image is not something that simply happens
It is part of the process of becoming His disciple
- X) Christians experience Him through His word, prayer, meditation, and fellowship

- I) We also have a deepening experience by simple obedience to His word
Jn 14:21 The one having My commandments and keeping them, he is the one loving Me. Now the one loving Me will be loved by My Father. And I will love him, and will **show Myself** to him
THE FACT IS
- II) If we are not seeking Him diligently, we are not being transformed into His image
1 Chron 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!
Ps 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."
- III) V18 The word **transformed** is the same word used of Jesus being transfigured
Mt 17:2 He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
- IV) It is also used in Ro 12:2 which tells us not to be conformed, but **transformed**
The glory Jesus had when He was transfigured is the glory we **too shall have**
- V) This is not speaking of an **outward glory**, but one that comes from within
It is what is the transformation of **the essential man**, performed by the Holy Spirit
WHICH BRINGS US TO V1
- VI) V1 Since we have **this ministry** as we have received **mercy** we do not lose heart
WHAT MINISTRY?
- VII) The ministry of the **New Covenant** (Ch 3:6)
Paul referred to the Law as the ministry of death, and of condemnation (3:6)
This is because the Law brought the knowledge of sin, and judgment as a result
- VIII) God by His Holy Spirit has given us a **New Covenant**
This **new covenant** imparts the Spirit to us, and **makes us righteous** before God
Heb 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance --now that he has died as a ransom to **set them free from the sins** committed under the first covenant.
- IX) The new covenant is more *glorious* than the *Old Covenant* for at least two reasons
First: It reveals that we triumph in Jesus (2:14)
Second: God's Holy Spirit continually is at work, transforming us (3:18)
- X) V1 Therefore since we **have this ministry** as we have **received mercy** we do not

I) Paul received the **mercy** ((compassionate treatment) of God and was thankful

APPLICATION

II) This strengthened him at times when he was tempted to lose heart (give up)

2 Co 1:8-9 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead

III) **Obviously**, ministers can come to the point where they want to give up

They get tired, drained, spiritually dry, and can have concerns for their future

They can have financial pressure, and often live in a glass house

IV) They can be taken advantage of, they go through loss and disappointment

If their grief is open to the church, they can be judged as weak

V) Their personality is ridiculed, their preaching is ignored, their clothing is judged, their motives are called into question and if they say something about this, their character and spiritual maturity is attacked, and their value is minimized

VI) They don't take vacations, their children are judged, and the wife unappreciated

They can receive unfair criticism and gossip and cannot defend themselves

Ps 86:17 Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because You Lord, have helped me and comforted me

VII) **Add to this** the pressure to conform to the world and the ridicule they endure

They put in long hours, sacrifice, encourage, pray for, and plead to the church

Often, the result is rejection, usually from the **very spiritual** people

THE FRUIT OF THIS

VIII) Through this they learn that the Lord is with them, and they hold on to Him tightly

Ps 32:10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusts in the Lord, **mercy** shall compass him about.

IX) We have seen these kinds of things in this letter, and again he answers a charge

This time his integrity and selflessness are called in to question

X) Once again, Paul addresses the poison of the **false apostles** in Corinth

12TH ACCUSATION: Paul uses the gospel to advance himself

- I) V2 We have **renounced the hidden things** of shame not walking **in craftiness** nor He begins his defense by revealing **the motives** of his ministry
FIRST
- II) We have **renounced** (rejected) the hidden things of shame (dishonesty)
We reject the use of subtle, underhanded practices to win you to ourselves
I am not trying to appear to be something important
- III) This is something that the false apostle are doing
2 Co 10:12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those **who are commending themselves**. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.
- IV) He is referring to the accusation that he is using tactics to deceive them
This was an accusation that he mentions later in this letter
2 Co 12:16 Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, **I caught you by trickery!**
- V) He is saying: Our motives before God and man are pure
Paul knew that he could hide nothing from the eyes of the Lord
Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- VI) This motivated him to live a pure and holy life
SECOND
- VII) V2 We do not walk in **craftiness** (charming deceitfulness)
I am not wearing the outward appearance of a man of God, hypocritically
2 Co 1:12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.
THIRD
- VIII) V2 Nor handling the word of God deceitfully (In order to gain personal advantage)
Paul was true to God's Word, not man's philosophy and fleshly wisdom
- IX) He did not preach messages that were for his own benefit: self-serving
1 Th 2:5 As you know, we never used words of flattery or any pretext for greed.
God is our witness!

PICTURE

- I) I am not **twisting scripture** to ensnare the hearers
2 Co 2:17 I am not peddling the gospel for personal gain
2 Pe 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.
- II) He had written this in his earlier letter
1 Co 2:4-5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.
QUOTE
- III) His enemies perverted the word by adulterating it with elements of the law, tradition, and false ideas of Christ.
- IV) They did this to draw converts to themselves, a tactic of false teachers
Gal. 6:12-13 Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The **only reason they do this** is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law yet they want you to be circumcised that **they may boast about your flesh**
THE FACT WAS
- V) He lived a spotless life before them, as a **living exhibit** of God's grace
- VI) This kind of life gives ministers a more respectful hearing as they share the gospel
This is what Paul told Timothy
1 Ti 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
Phil 3:17 Join together in **following my example**, brothers and sisters, and just as **you have us** as a model, keep your eyes on those **who live as we do**.
- VII) V3-4 But even if **our gospel** is veiled it is **veiled** to those who are perishing, whose **Our gospel** speaks of the message that he preaches
- VIII) By saying this, Paul contrasts his authority with the false apostle's claims
He preaches the one true gospel, but many people did not accept the gospel
- IX) They still, to this day, reject it: To them, the gospel is veiled (hidden; concealed)
This concept is something that he spoke of in ch 3:14-15

- I) V3 The gospel is veiled to those who are perishing
They are **spiritually blinded**, voluntarily, but also through **satanic influence**
- II) They **voluntarily** remain blinded, refusing to hear
Jn 10:24-26 So the Jews gathered around Him and demanded, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." I already told you," Jesus replied, "but you did not believe. The works I do in My Father's name testify on My behalf. But because you are not My sheep, **you refuse to believe**.
Is 42:20 You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.
Mt 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'
- III) Matthew records how Jesus went to His hometown, Nazareth
While there, the people were offended at Him
Mt 13:58 He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief
- IV) They also are veiled through **demonic influence**
Paul speaks of this by referring to the **god of this age**
- V) The term god **of this age** tells us Satan has **limited authority** in this period of time
For a limited time, he exercises a kind of authority over the world
1 Jn 5:19 We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one
- VI) He usurped this authority through deception, in the garden of Eden
Satan actually refers to this when he was tempting Jesus
Lu 4:5-8 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has **been delivered to me**, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, **all will be Yours**." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and *Him only* you shall serve
- VII) V4 He has **blinded the minds** of those **who do not believe** (our natural inclination)
Literally, who choose to *refuse* to believe: Satan encourages this in them

- I) They do not see **the beauty of the gospel** which reveals love, and God's grace
He has influenced the entire world to reject the beauty of grace
- II) This applies equally to the false apostles as well as people in general
- III) V4 The gospel of the glory of Christ **who is the image of God**
The light of the gospel reveals the glory of Jesus, who Himself **is God's image**
POINT
- IV) Jesus is the **perfect manifestation** of that the invisible God made visible (Jn 1:1)
Jn 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth
Col. 1:15-17 He is **the image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together
Heb 1:3 (Jesus) the brightness of His glory and **the express image** of His person
13TH ACCUSATION: PAUL PREACHES HIMSELF
- V) V5 We do not **preach ourselves**, but **Christ Jesus** the Lord and ourselves your
Paul labored to advance the cause of Christ, not his own ministry career
APPLICATION
- VI) In a personality driven society, the desire to be known can be a great temptation
- VII) John the Baptist's disciples got jealous when Jesus began to eclipse John
They came to John, and complained about this to him
Jn 3:26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—**the one you testified about**—look, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him."
- VIII) John corrected them
Jn 3:27-28 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent **before Him**
Jn 3:30 **He** must increase, but I must decrease.
- IX) This was the kind of heart that also resided in Paul
1 Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, **but ministers** through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

- I) V6-7 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has Satan has done what he could to bring darkness, to blind man
- II) Spiritual illumination comes from the Father of Light: His Spirit illuminates us
Ps 18:28 For **You will light my lamp**; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness
- III) Jesus came to bring light to this sin darkened world
Is 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness (ignorance, misery, calamity, death) a light has dawned.
Jn 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."
KEY
- IV) Because of this enlightenment, we now see Jesus for who He is
God's glory is revealed in the face of Jesus
Jn 14:7-9 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, '**Show us the** Father'?"
- V) V7 We have **this treasure** in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may
The light of the knowledge of the glory of God, revealed in the gospel
EARTHEN VESSELS
- VI) At that time the practice of burying valuables in clay pots was very common
Israel had been attacked many times over the years
Because of this, families buried valuables, to keep them out of the hand of plunderers: If taken captive, they might be able to return one day to retrieve their goods
IMAGE
- VII) God is the potter, we are His pots, and He has deposited His wealth in us
We have been given the gospel, but the results will come from Him
1 Co 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.
- VIII) We are unworthy, but have been granted this privilege
Paul takes no credit for the work of God, he is only a container of the message
Zech 4:6 Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord Almighty