

II Corinthians 3 – 27 March 2022

“The Privilege of the New Covenant”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
 - *Some of them needed lots of growth & help
- *Theme of Book: The life of the minister: temporary pain & eternal victory
- *Chap 1 Paul taught them how to ‘thrive in the fire’ by depending on the Holy Spirit
- *Chap 2 he addressed how to guide others toward freedom in Christ Jesus
- *Now, in Chap 3 Paul comes back to the heart of the message of the Gospel; the offer of a New Covenant which is relationship w/ God thru Jesus Christ
- *There is a substance to our faith & that is that we’ve entered into contract w/ God Almighty for eternity
- *So let’s look at 3 aspects of the New Covenant relationship we have with God thru Jesus Christ**

1st aspect we'll look at is the proof of the New Covenant (Vs 1-6a)

Read Vs 1

1. When you're new to each other, a 3rd party will vouch for you, but after a trust has been built there's no further need of a trusted middle liaison
2. Paul doesn't need to re-establish his sufficiency (see 2:16) to give the Gospel, b/c they're his proof

Read Vs 2

1. Paul has living proof that's he's been giving the life-changing Gospel in the form of... them!
2. There's no need for a 3rd party to vouch for this, when the Corinthian's new life IS the proof

Read Vs 3

1. The H. S. changes within the Corinthians can be learned from, the same as from an epistle
2. *The Gospel many people see first isn't the written Word of God, but the changed life of someone that once was dead and is now alive in Christ forevermore*

Read Vs 4-5

1. This answers the question posed in 2:16; who's sufficient to dispense the Gospel?
 - a. God is, thru anyone that will yield to Him
2. Paul's trusting that God is doing a H.S. work in people as he dispenses the Gospel
3. This is a paradigm shift away from self-esteem
 - a. Read Luk 16:15 – esteem is abomination...
 - b. Not self-esteem, but God-esteem
 - c. We will let ourselves down, but God won't

Read Vs 6a

1. “God has made us...” – What Paul's giving is what he first experienced himself – life from H.S.
2. Read I Tim 1:11-13 – Paul had life change that made him faithful to the Gospel instead of faithful to his past sins

2nd aspect we'll look at is the preeminence of the New Covenant (Vs 6b-11)

Read Vs 6b

1. Letter of Law brought knowledge of sin, THEN the Gospel comes to bring the ability to live in Christ
2. Turn to John 6:53, 58, 63 – Jesus uses physical pictures but it's the spiritual reality that's needed

Read Vs 7-8

1. Giving of Law was of great substance & value
 - a. Psm 19:7 – “Law of Lord is perfect...”
 - b. Gal 3:24 – “Law was our schoolmaster...”
 - c. To know what God expected is great. To know “what right looks like” is so needed.
2. Then vs 8 shows the method of overcoming the Law; the Spirit is that much more wonderful
 - a. Learning of gravity & how it affects objects is very helpful
 - b. THEN learning of aerodynamic that overcome gravity enables us to fly!

Read Vs 9

1. Purpose of the Law was to find us guilty unto condemnation (Rom 3:19)
2. Purpose of Spirit thru Jesus brings righteousness & freedom (Rom 1:16-17)

Read Vs 10-11

1. Law was ‘done away’ in that we don’t live under its bondage / dominion anymore
 - a. Matt 5:17 – *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”*
2. Henry David Thoreau said, *“I say, beware of all enterprises that require new clothes, and not rather a new wearer of clothes.”*
 - a. Jesus didn’t give us new covenant of different standards than the old; He gave us a new covenant in that He gave us His reward for completing the old.
 - b. We don’t need rehabbed, we need reborn!

3rd aspect we'll look at is the profit of the New Covenant (Vs 12-18)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Our **confidence & boldness** to preach w/ words & actions comes b/c we've experience the reality of flying in the Spirit above the Law
2. As the shining of Moses' face started to fade so the glory of the Law would fade compared to what was to come
3. Law didn't provide a hope that would endure, but we have in the Spirit a confidence of life to come

Read Vs 14-15

1. As Moses' veil hid Israel from the fulness of God's **revelation** to them, still today there's a veil over their eyes that hides God from them
2. God is hidden b/c of their own heart condition
 - a. Read Acts 28:26-27 – “Hearing they will..”
 - b. Matt 13:9 – “He who hath ears to hear...”

Read Vs 16

1. What is “it”? From vs 15 it’s the heart
 - a. Read Rom 11:25 (also Zec 12:10-13:1)

Read Vs 17

1. The Lord is clearly Jesus
 - a. I Cor 15:47 – Lord from Heaven is Jesus
2. There is **freedom** being in Jesus Christ
 - a. As aerodynamics frees us from the confines of this earth, so the Spirit of the Lord spiritually frees us from the confines of this earth

Read Vs 18

1. There is **metamorphosis** for believers
2. As we’re living our life in such a way that we’re beholding the value/weightiness of Jesus, we are changed!

Conclusion

So this is the ministry that Paul has received and that we have received to offer up to our friends & family. These are the privileges of the New Covenant

- 1. It's been proven – by changed lives**
 - a. We ourselves are living proof that the Gospel is real and effective
 - b. Living by Christ-esteem, not self-esteem is what a lost world needs to see
- 2. It's preeminent – over the Old Covenant**
 - a. The Law, the letter, like gravity, is the knowledge of our limits & short-comings
 - b. The Spirit, the Word, like aerodynamics, is the power to overcome self by the life of Jesus
- 3. It's profitable**
 - a. Relationship w/ Jesus in this New Covenant or new contract brings confidence, boldness, revelation, freedom and metamorphosis!
 - b. What a privilege that we have a relationship w/ our Creator that doesn't just benefit Him, but also blesses and benefits us!