

**2 Corinthians 3**  
**"The beauty of the gospel"**

A. The beauty of the gospel is seen in its power to transform lives

1. In what tangible ways has your life been and is being transformed by the gospel?
2. How can knowing that our spiritual birth is not the end of our transformation, but the beginning help us?
3. What two things are needed to facilitate the continued transformation and why are they important?

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4. What were the two things conveyed that show that the change in our lives is real?

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5. How would you describe the beauty of the transforming power of the gospel?

B. The beauty of the gospel is seen in the freedom it brings

1. What purposes did the Old Covenant – Law serve?

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2. Why did the Old Covenant lead to death?

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3. Why was there glory in the Old Covenant?

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4. Why is the New Covenant considered a covenant of grace?

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5. How have you seen in your own life the truth that the gospel is freeing?

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## **Paul**

He transformed from murderer to missionary. His identity changed. His purpose changed. His attitude and demeanor changed. Paul became a new person.

## **meaning of the glory of God**

So here is an attempt at a definition. The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections. The infinite beauty—and I am focusing on the manifestation of his character and his worth and his attributes — all of his perfections and greatness are beautiful as they are seen, and there are many of them. That is why I use the word manifold. Overall, the glory of God is used in a variety of ways in Scripture. It can refer to God's greatness, His honor, His beauty, His power, and His light. In every case, the glory of God acknowledges the Lord's supreme strength and our need to both acknowledge and serve Him.

## **Central Question**

Unfortunately, the Bible's central question is not the central question of our day. At a superficial level, we know we have a problem. We create religions to deal with our guilt and systems of morality to keep us in line. Still, we are blind to the real problem. And the fact that people don't take this problem seriously is itself symptomatic of our problem. In the blindness of our sin, we are ignorant of our true condition, and we distort who God is. This means that we grossly underestimate the depth of our sin before God. Like fools who think ourselves wise, we vainly try to remake God in our own image.

## **Law vs. Grace**

God's law tells us that He desires holiness to characterize the way we live. Only God's grace can provide such godliness in our lives. God's law tells us that He wants Christlike love to permeate our attitudes and relationships. Only God's grace can develop such love in us. God's law tells us that He desires the perfections of the Father to be growing in us. Only God's grace is sufficient to carry out such a process of transformation.

The law of God is the "what"; the grace of God is the "how".

The law of God reveals sin; the grace of God forgives sin.

The law of God indicates man's problem; the grace of God provides God's remedy.

The law of God demands performance by man; the grace of God offers provision from God.

The law of God is the standard; the grace of God is the means.

The law of God is the spiritual measuring rod that evaluates lives; the grace of God is the nurturing resource that produces spiritual life.

The law of God tells us of the character of God; the grace of God reproduces that character in us.

The law of God is the effect God wants to see; the grace of God is the cause that brings forth that effect.