

# Looking Into the Glory of the Lord 3

What a privilege it has been to be together with in the book of 2 Corinthians this month. What Paul writes in 3.18-4.6 is really profound. He addresses matters related to our salvation and the proclamation of the gospel. He says new covenant believers come with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, 3.18. Then he says, God has shone in our hearts, bringing the light of the knowledge of God's glory, in the face of Jesus Christ. This privilege is given to those who believe on Christ and have received the New Covenant promises.

## I. What Do We Mean When We Say We Look Into the Glory of the Lord?

- A. An objective look through scripture.
- B. The New Covenant is reality and the veil is off. Our vision of Christ is unhindered.
  - 1. Hebrews 1:2-3a: *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the **exact expression** of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*
  - 2. The glory of God: John 14:9b: *The one who has seen me has seen the **Father**.*
- C. Unveiled vision but not perfect
  - 1. As wonderful as our vision is ... it is still not perfect.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 13.9-10: *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the **partial** will come to an end.*
  - 3. When we get to eternity, what has been given in partial will be done away.
  - 4. 1 Corinthians 13:12: *For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then **face to face**. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.*
- D. This goes far beyond the point of salvation. It also involves our continued sanctification.
  - 1. We fix our eyes on Jesus.
  - 2. When we look to Christ we see: A holy, powerful God who transcends our trouble.
  - 3. Did Paul believe God transcended all his troubles? 2 Corinthians 4.8-9; 16, 17, 18; 5.6-7

## II. The Corinthian Situation

- A. In 4.1-5 Paul deals with attacks by false teachers. They said he had a defective methodology.
  - 1. What did he preach? 1 Corinthians 2.2, 4: Plain, bold, direct presentation the cross.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 1.23 - His message was rejected by both **Jews** & Gentiles.
- B. 2 Corinthians 4.3-4 addresses this claim. What happens when we look into the face of Christ?

## III. We Embrace Our Wonderful Privilege

- A. 4.3: Not everyone has it.
  - 1. Only those who have had the veil of spiritual blindness removed in Christ can look into His face, 2 Corinthians 3.14. *The veil is set aside only **in Christ**.*
  - 2. 4.3: *It is veiled to those who are **perishing** ... those who refuse to hear.*
- B. 4.4a: Satan is behind it all.
  - 1. He is the **god** of this age.
  - 2. 1 John 5.19: *We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the **sway** of the evil one.*
- C. 4.4b: We received the wonderful light of the gospel ... the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
  - 1. Jesus Christ is God-revealed. Colossians 2.9: *For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ,*
  - 2. Colossians 2.3: *In him are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge.*

## IV. As We Close...

- A. What the son or daughter of God has is so precious ... it is to be so treasured ... that one's gaze is kept on Him at all times.
- B. If you are in a dark place in your life right now ... To whom are you looking?
- C. If you have come here today as an unbeliever, your only hope is in Jesus. Will you believe?