

MESSAGE NOTES:

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The Greater Glory of the New Covenant

⁷ Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰ For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹ And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Reasons for Wonder

1. Because of the Spirit, we have freedom.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Cor. 3:17)

2. Because of the Spirit, we are being transformed into Christ's image.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:18)

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- What is one area in your life where you wish you had more freedom?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. What is "the ministry that brought death?" Why does Paul call this "the ministry that brought death?"
3. What is the old covenant Paul refers to in verse 14? What is the new covenant?
4. How does our culture define freedom? How do you define freedom? How do you think Paul would define the freedom he is referring to in verse 17?
5. In this passage, Paul says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory..." What do you think he means by "unveiled faces"?
6. How can we be, as Paul says, "transformed into his (the Lord's) image?"
7. Is being transformed into God's image something that God does or something that we do? Why?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in Prayer.