

13 June 2021

Ministry of Death vs Ministry of Righteousness

2 Corinthians – Part 5

Paul contrasts the law with the gospel of grace. Which is greater? The law of Moses, or the gospel of Christ? Consider the following contrasts:

1. Written on _____ , Not Stones
(vs 1-3, Matthew 7:20, Hebrews 10:16-17)
2. Bringing _____ , Not Death
(vs 4-6, Romans 6:10-11, 14)
3. Lasting _____ , Not Fading
(vs 7-13)
4. _____ , Not Veiled
(vs 14-16, Exodus 34:34, Mark 15:37-38)
5. _____ , Not Bondage
(vs 17-18)
 - A. The OT covenant was a covenant of _____
(Acts 15:10)
 - B. The NT is a ministry of _____
(Galatians 5:1)

2 Corinthians 3:1-18 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? ²You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

⁴And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, ⁸how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

¹²Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— ¹³unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.