

2nd Corinthians – Finding *the New*!

- Where do you find *comfort*?
- Where do you find *hope*?
- Where do you find *help*?
- *Finding the 'new' in Jesus!*

Lesson 3: Change is Good!!

1. You are the 'letter'
2. New Cov: letter vs **Spirit**
3. Hope & Freedom
4. Transformed to be like Jesus!

2 Corinthians 3.

- Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.

- ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
- ⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ before God.

- ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- 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.

1. You are the 'letter'

- *You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. . . written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*
- *Known and read by everyone . . .*
- *written . . . with the Spirit of the living God, . . .*
- *on tablets of human hearts*

2. New Covenant: letter vs Spirit

- *but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*
- our competence comes from God
- ministers of a new covenant
- the Spirit gives life.

3. Hope & Freedom

- *Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold . .*
- *Therefore . . . What is the 'therefore' there for?*
- Contrast of Old Covenant Glory and
- **NEW COVENANT GLORY!**
- My words:
- **LAW VS GRACE**

FREEDOM!

- *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*
- *where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*
- *Freedom from what, for what?*
- *From yourself! Your sin nature*
- ***FOR** God's glory!*

4. Transformed to be like Jesus!

- And we all, . . . contemplate the Lord's glory,
- are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory,
- which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Philippians 1.3-6, NIV

- ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this,
- that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12.1-2, NKJV

- Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

- ² **looking unto Jesus**,
- the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How does this apply to you??

- Discouragement is a tough enemy
- Waiting is hard
- We need to 'apply' God's TRUTH:
- God knows your needs better than you do
- God is hearing your prayers!
- God will finish what He started!!

- Time with your Lord is time well spent
- Use a devotional (or two):
- *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young
- *New Morning Mercies* by Dr. Paul David Tripp
- *Less Fret, More Faith* by Max Lucado
- Christian Radio!

HOPE . .

- “HOPE is not a thing, not a location, not a situation, not an experience.
- HOPE is a PERSON, and His Name is JESUS.
- Dr. Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, Jan 23