

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
THE VEIL (or THE VAIL) AND THE GLORY
2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

Vs 12-13

The effect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that it is a **ministration of spirit and righteousness** rather than a **ministration of condemnation and death** as the law was. Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus Christ instills a hope—a confident expectation! The confident expectation that it brings is that of eternal glory for us through Christ! And because it gives a confident expectation of glory both now and forever, we *don't cover up*, we don't use a veil, but rather we use *plainness* of speech!

That word “*plainness*” means “*all out spokenness, frankness, bluntness, publicity; and it implies assurance!*”

i.e. We share the full glory of what we have received! i.e. The glory is all the LORD's, but it is in our possession!

We are not like Moses who had to wear a **veil** over his face to cover the glory of God that was manifested while he was in the presence of God! That which the children of Israel saw when Moses came down from the mount caused them to be afraid! (*Exodus 34:29-30*)

So glorious was Moses' face that the children of Israel couldn't bear to look at him, so he wore the **veil**! (*Exodus 34:31-35*)

Now think about it! They could not bear to look upon **this effect of the glory of God!** This is not surprising as we see their reaction in previous encounters with the effects of the glory of God. (*Exodus 19:16-19; 20:7-20; 24:16-17*)

But, that glory faded from their memory after they left Mt. Sinai and eventually the glory faded from Moses face! But that veil also prevented the Children Of Israel from seeing the fading of the glory!

Vs 14
Just like the veil that Moses wore on his face to cover the glory, so now there is a veil on the hearts and minds of God's people Israel that covers the glory of the Gospel.

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It blinds them to the New Covenant—The Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

It was as if God said, “*You want a veil, I'll give you a veil!*”

We can see that the **veil** was there for the Scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees as well as many others who failed to see the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ! Was it because the Glory wasn't there? No, its because they didn't want to see the Glory!

The veil is still there because of the fact that today the Jews, by-and-large, **do not see that Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness!** (Cf. **Romans 10:1ff**)

They do not see that Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Law!
The blindness is still there!

Vs 15

When the Jews read the Law, they cannot see for the veil on their hearts that they can't actually keep the Law! (Romans 2)

But in reading the Old Testament there is **no confidence** that you would expect in the hearts and minds of God's people! That is because they CAN'T keep the Law of God! **There can be no confidence of anything but death!**

Romans 3:19-20 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

However, with the New Covenant, we who trust Jesus Christ have **absolute assurance of our perfect acceptance with God! Not based on our righteousness, but based upon Christ's Righteousness imputed to us by our faith and trust in Him!**

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Vs 16

"It", here, refers to **the heart**. **When the heart turns to the Lord Jesus Christ, the veil is taken away.** Man's trouble is heart trouble!

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Man is blinded because of the sin in his life! When he is willing to turn from his sin (repent) and receive the Lord Jesus as his Savior, *"the veil shall be taken away."*

Vs 17

Only the Spirit of God can lift the veil and help us to see that Christ is the Savior! He alone can do that! **And He does that through the ministration of the Gospel Of Jesus Christ! When we preach the Gospel, the Word of God, the Spirit of God takes the Word of God and lifts the veil!**

Vs 18

"But we all" = i.e. Believers

"with open face" = unveiled or without a veil.

"beholding as in a glass" = in a mirror, namely, the Gospel or the Word of God which reflects the Glory of God and Christ!

"are changed into the same image" = namely, we are changed into the image of Christ's glory, spiritually now and a bodily change hereafter (Philippians 3:21). Believers all reflect the image of Christ more or less which is a proof of the truth of the Glorious Gospel of Christ!

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 John 3:2-3 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

"from glory to glory"— or from one degree of glory to another. Just as Moses' face caught a reflection of God's glory from being in His presence, so believers are changed into Christ's image by beholding Him in His Word!

We all could use more time looking in the mirror of the Word of God in the presence of our Saviour, beholding Him and His Glory more so that we might be more like Him and reflect His glory more!

With the Holy Spirit's help we see the unveiled Christ in the Word of God! The more we look at His Glory in the Word and the more we spend time in His presence, the more His Glory is seen in us as we grow in His likeness and Glory!

Oh, how wonderful He is! Oh, how He wants to change us... and is in the process of changing us into His Glory by the Spirit of the Lord! The Spirit of the Lord changes us through the Word of God!

The song **"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"** comes to mind!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus;

Look full in His wonderful face;

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace!