

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 3:7-18

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review II Corinthians 3:1-6 and recall the meaning of the following phrases. Write a comment about each one:
 - a. *Ye are our epistle (letter) . . . known and read of all men*
 - b. *our sufficiency is of God*
 - c. *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament*
 - d. *the Spirit giveth life*
2. Our study this week should bless and inspire us as we behold the glory of the Lord through His Word. Read II Corinthians 3:7-18 and observe how often the words *glorious* and *glory* are used. Begin by thoughtfully printing verse 18 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. What is your initial response to this verse?
3. Prepare your heart and mind for your study of II Corinthians 3:7-18 by writing a prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you through His Word. Write your prayer here.

*The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever.
My meditation of Him shall be sweet.
Psalm 104:31a,34a*

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 3:7-11

1. Paul introduced the subject of the *new testament* (covenant) in II Corinthians 3:6. Our study of II Corinthians 3:7-11 will expand our understanding of the new covenant and will enhance our appreciation for it. Through these verses we will discover several important contrasts between the *old* and *new* testaments. Link II Corinthians 3:7 with Exodus 34:27-30 and briefly describe what you see.
2. Read II Corinthians 3:7-11. Paul acknowledged the *glory* of both the old and new covenants. Although the old was *glorious*, the new is *more glorious*. Consider why as you complete the following chart:

<u>Old Testament (Covenant)</u>	<u>New Testament (Covenant)</u>
a. verse 7a <i>death</i>	verse 6b(8b) _____
b. verse 9a <i>condemnation</i>	verse 9b _____
c. verse 11a <i>that which is done away with</i>	verse 11b <i>that which</i> _____

Advanced Students: Using Romans 7:5-11 explain how the Law (old covenant) ministers death.

3. Read II Corinthians 3:8-10 once more, using other versions if you desire. From the following verses record the phrase that depicts the *greater glory* of the **new** compared to the **old**:
 - a. verse 8
 - b. verse 9
 - c. verse 10
4. Read I Corinthians 11:24,25. What does it mean to you today to be in the new covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ?

*If the old covenant, which brings condemnation, was glorious,
how much more glorious is the new covenant, which makes us right with God!
So if the old covenant, which has been set aside, was full of glory,
then the new covenant, which remains forever, has far greater glory.*
II Corinthians 3:9,11 NLT

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 3:12-14

1. Read II Corinthians 3:12 NLT: *Since this new covenant gives us such confidence, we can be very bold.* It is a privilege to share the gospel with others – the Good News of God’s New Covenant with man. The old covenant was based on what man should do for God; the new covenant is based on what God has done for man. How does this give you greater confidence and boldness to witness?

2. In II Corinthians 3:13 Paul was given a deeper revelation of the meaning of the *veil* (veil) worn by Moses (Exodus 34:29-35). Why did Moses *put a veil over his face*?
 - a. The phrase *the end of that which is abolished* (verse 13b) has been translated *the end of what was passing away* (NKJV). This reveals that the veil not only prevented the Israelites from seeing the glory fading from Moses’ face but it also prevented them from understanding the temporary character of the Mosaic Law. How does verse 14a describe this?

3. Pastor Chuck says: *The glory of the Law has also faded; because when Jesus Christ established the new covenant, the old covenant was no longer necessary.* The glory of the old passed away but the glory of the new remains. Think about the enduring glory of the gospel which will never grow dim or fade away. Respond by writing a sentence of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for this.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation
to every one that believeth. . .
Romans 1:16*

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 3:14-17

1. The word *veil* (veil) appears four times in II Corinthians 3:14-16. II Corinthians 3:14 declares that even until the time of Paul’s writing the veil remained. The Jews clung to the Law as a means of salvation not understanding or accepting Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Write what you learn about the *veil* from the following verses:
 - a. verse 14b

 - b. verse 15

 - c. verse 16

(1.) According to these verses where is this *veil*?

(a.) How does this help explain the resistance to the gospel when witnessing?

d. What does Galatians 2:16 declare about trying to gain righteousness through the Law?

2. The Law is described as a *yoke of bondage* in Galatians 5:1. Consider the contrast to this as you write II Corinthians 3:17 here.

a. Does being free from the bondage of the Law mean we are free to sin? Use Romans 6:14,15 for your answer.

Challenge: Record one purpose for the Law according to Galatians 3:24.

3. Christians are not only free from the bondage of the Law but are also free from spiritual blindness when reading the scriptures. What does this prompt you to do?

*If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed.
John 8:36*

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 3:18

1. II Corinthians 3:18 is a powerful, life-changing verse. In it we discover the key to growing into Christ-likeness. Read verse 18 NKJV: *But 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.* Grasp the meaning of verse 18 as you explain the following phrases:

a. *we all, with unveiled face*

b. *beholding as in a mirror*

c. *the glory of the Lord*

d. *are being transformed into the same image* (see Romans 8:29)

e. *from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*

2. Print the promise in II Corinthians 3:18.

- a. The word *transformed* or *changed* is probably best understood by the metamorphosis of the cocooned caterpillar that emerges as a butterfly. The phrase *from glory to glory* is translated *ever-increasing glory* (NIV) revealing the progressive nature of this change. What is our part in this transformation?

(1.) What might hinder us from *beholding* Him?

3. II Corinthians 3:18 should inspire and motivate every believer. With this in mind suggest a few practical ways of *beholding the glory of the Lord*.

Come and see the glory of the Lord.

Come behold the Lamb.

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SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 3:7-18

1. Recall from your study this week at least one reason why the new covenant is *more glorious* than the old covenant.

2. With this week's lesson in mind briefly explain the meaning of the following:

a. the veil Moses put over his face

b. the veil over the hearts of the Jews

(1.) How can this veil be removed?

3. What did you learn from the following verses that you can apply to your life:
 - a. II Corinthians 3:12
 - b. II Corinthians 3:17
 - c. II Corinthians 3:18

4. Share a way you have been blessed or inspired through your study of II Corinthians 3:7-18.

*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.*
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