

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

## **A. The Credentials of the New Covenant Minister (3:1-5)**

### **1. Not based on man's recommendation (3:1)**

**Examples of letters of recommendation**

**a. Apollos - Acts 18:27**

**b. Phoebe – Romans 16:1-2**

### **2. Paul's credentials based on results (3:2-4)**

**The believers at Corinth were living proof**

### **3. Based on the work of God (3:5)**

**Sufficient = Qualified**

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

## **B. The Superiority of the New Covenant Ministry (3:6-18)**

### **1. The life giving quality of the New Covenant (3:6)**

**a. The Mosaic Covenant shows we are sinners**

**Galatians 3:24**

**b. The New Covenant (Testament) shows the power of the Holy Spirit to give spiritual life**

**John 6:63**

**c. God's plan**

**Hebrews 8:6-13**

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

**B. The Superiority of the New Covenant Ministry  
(3:6-18) - continued**

**2. The glory of the New Covenant (3:7-11)**

**There is always glory in the presence of God**

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

## **B. The Superiority of the New Covenant Ministry (3:6-18) - continued**

### **3. The permanence of the New Covenant (3:12-18)**

#### **a. In glory (3:12-16)**

- 1). Moses' glory faded. The Gospel's glory never fades.**
- 2). The two-fold picture of the "veil."**

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

**3. The permanence of the New Covenant (3:12-18) continued**

**b. In liberty from the law (3:17)**

**Romans 8:1-2, Galatians 5:13-26**

**1). Our freedom to do the will of God**

**2). Our restriction from fulfilling the lusts of the flesh**

**3). Our denial of self**

# **New and Improved - 2 Corinthians 3**

**The ministry of the gospel is superior to the administration of the law of Moses.**

**3. The permanence of the New Covenant (3:12-18) continued**

**c. The Christian's glory should grow (3:18)**

**1). All Christians can approach God**

**Hebrew 4:16**

**2). We serve with open face so the world can see God's glory**

## **2 Corinthians 4:11**

**For we which live are  
always delivered unto  
death for Jesus' sake,  
that the life also of  
Jesus might be made  
manifest in our mortal  
flesh.**

# **Hidden Treasures**

## **2 Corinthians 4**

**God had entrusted believers with a priceless treasure, the gospel.**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God**

## **(4:1-6)**

### **A. His perseverance (4:1)**

**2 Corinthians 4:1**

**Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

## **B. His openness and honesty (4:2)**

### **2 Corinthians 4:2**

**But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.**

- 1. Paul did not use the ministry to advance his own interests**
- 2. Paul did not try to make God's message palatable to sinful human taste**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

## **B. His openness and honesty (4:2) - continued**

### **3. The essential elements of the Gospel**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:1-5**

**1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;**

**2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.**

**3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

## **B. His openness and honesty (4:2) - continued**

### **3. The essential elements of the Gospel**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:1-5 - continued**

**4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

**5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:**

- a. Christ died for our sins**
- b. He was buried**
- c. He arose**
- d. He was seen**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

## **C. His opponent (4:3-4)**

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

**3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

**4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

**“Unbelief produces blindness which produces unbelief”**

# **I. The Confident Openness of a Servant of God (4:1-6)**

## **D. His preaching (4:5-6)**

**2 Corinthians 4:5-6**

**5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.**

**6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

**His message was not just words**

## **II. The Difficulties of a Servant of God (4:7-15)**

### **A. His weakness (4:7)**

**2 Corinthians 4:7**

**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

## **II. The Difficulties of a Servant of God (4:7-15)**

### **B. His hardships (4:8-15)**

#### **1. The work of death (4:8-11)**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-11**

**8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;**

**9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;**

**10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**

**11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

## **II. The Difficulties of a Servant of God (4:7-15)**

### **B. His hardships (4:8-15)**

#### **1. The work of death (4:8-11) - continued**

**Four examples of Paul's frailty**

- a. He was "troubled on every side" (v 8)**
- b. He was "perplexed" (v 8)**
- c. He was "persecuted" (v 9)**
- d. He was "cast down" (v 9)**

**Four examples of God's power**

- a. "Yet not distressed" (v 8)**
- b. "but not in despair" (v 8)**
- c. "but not forsaken" (v 9)**
- d. "but not destroyed" (v 9)**

**Paul was “dying” but he was not  
“dead”**

## **II. The Difficulties of a Servant of God (4:7-15)**

### **B. His hardships (4:8-15)**

#### **2. The ministry of life (4:12-15)**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:12-15**

**12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.**

**13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;**

**14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.**

**15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.**

# **III. The Hope of a Servant of God (4:16-18)**

## **A. The Hope of Daily invincibility (4:16)**

### **2 Corinthians 4:16**

**For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**

#### **1. The priority of ministry**

**Is ministry our “cause?”**

#### **2. The perseverance in ministry**

### **Galatians 2:20**

**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

### **III. The Hope of a Servant of God (4:16-18)**

**We need to keep the main thing the main thing**

# **III. The Hope of a Servant of God (4:16-18)**

## **B. The Hope of eternal glory (4:17-18)**

### **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

**17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**

**18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

### **III. The Hope of a Servant of God (4:16-18)**

**Our faith is revealed in how we look at situations**