



# SECOND CORINTHIANS

*The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People*



Part 17 — “The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant” (2 Cor. 3:7-11) — 25 February 2024

## Introduction:

Through Paul and his companions, Christ was being victoriously proclaimed even if their lives and circumstances seemed to evidence weakness and defeat. They had been made to be sufficient ministers of the New Covenant in Christ and this was evidenced by the fact that God had done a work through them among the Corinthians. This ministry surpassed even that of Moses among the Israelites because it carried with it a greater glory and therefore Paul and his companions did not lose heart.

**Main Point:** The salvation that has come in the New Covenant means that believers are declared \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s sight and receive the \_\_\_\_\_ indwelling of the Holy Spirit to produce that righteousness in our lives.

## The New Covenant & the Glory of God

### Initial Considerations

I. Paul makes repeated use of the term “\_\_\_\_\_” and references the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

“glory”—δόξα (*doxa*)—the condition of being bright or shining; a state of being magnificent; honor or recognition.

- \* Used of God’s glory seen in His miraculous actions of saving, delivering, and providing (Exod. 15:7,11; 16:10), His presence among His people (Exod. 24:16; 29:43), and of the clothing, vestments, and ornamentation of the people (Exod. 28:2,40; 33:5)

Exod. 33:18—Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”

Exod. 33:6-7b—<sup>6</sup>The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”

⇒ The “glory” of God is associated with His personal presence \_\_\_\_\_, and His covenant \_\_\_\_\_, His people.

Exod. 34:29-32—<sup>29</sup>When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai.

⇒ Moses’ face shone with the \_\_\_\_\_ “glory” of having been in God’s presence as the terms of the covenant were restated.

2. Paul employs a rabbinical method of argumentation in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the old and new covenants.

⇒ The term in Hebrew is literally translated “light and heavy” and carries the idea of moving from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Corinthians 3:7-11

- Paul argues that the New Covenant is superior in glory to the old because of the ministry of the Spirit. (3:7-8)

### Observations:

1. The ministry of old covenant had a degree of glory as Exod. 34:29-32 shows.

“ministry”

2. This ministry, however, was one of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 7:10) that was also \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

3. This stands in contrast to the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Cor. 3:6b—For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**Key Point:** Under the New Covenant, God’s people have in Him their \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life in the future and their \_\_\_\_\_ of new life in the present!

- Paul argues that the New Covenant is superior in glory to the old because of its ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:9)

Observations:

1. The ministry of the Law brought condemnation.

Rom. 2:20—For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

2. This stands in contrast to the ministry that provides a righteous \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

Rom. 3:21-24—<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

**Key Point:** Our righteous standing before God is grounded in our \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ!

- Paul argues that the New Covenant is superior in glory to the old because of its \_\_\_\_\_ (3:10-11)

Observations:

1. When compared to the New, the old covenant has come to have no glory at all.

“As the light of a lantern shines at night, but at noonday is overpowered by the sun, so was the glory of Moses overshadowed by Christ.”  
—Theodoret (5th C.)

2. Although the glory of the old covenant was temporary, that of the New Covenant is permanent.

⇒ The \_\_\_\_\_ provided through the New Covenant in Christ’s blood is the basis for eternal life for all of God’s peoples.

Heb. 9:12—he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

⇒ The New Covenant, mediated by Christ, is the \_\_\_\_\_ by which all of the unconditional promises of God will find their ultimate fulfillment.

2 Cor. 1:20—For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

**Key Point:** God’s people can be continually assured of His presence with them because of the permanent \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

## Concluding Thought

- Understanding the glorious truths of our righteousness in Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are vital for our ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Heb. 4:15-16—<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

John 16:7-8—<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

2 Cor. 1:21-22—<sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.



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