

February 20, 2022
II Corinthians 3:7-18
Reflectors

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The word “hope” in our text today carries with it the understanding of “assured expectation.”

The glory in Moses’ face was a diminishing radiance. By contrast, in the faces of Christians is God’s ever-increasing glory, see **4:6**. This is what is meant by “from glory to glory.” As believers we are the reflection of God’s glory!

Christlikeness is the goal of the Christian walk = reflectors of the gospel.

In comparison of the Old and New covenants, respectively, it is like the light of the moon in comparison to the light of the sun. The greater light obscures the lesser.

Unbelievers eyes are veiled to the saving grace of God. Only in Christ is the veil set aside. In Christ one finds the end of the Law, see **Romans 10:4**.

Jesus ratified (made officially valid) the New Covenant with His death.

The new covenant is transforming. In **verse 18** one finds the words, “. . . are being transformed . . .” this is in the present, passive, participle, which is speaking to the reality of the believer’s progressive sanctification. As one grows in the image of God, so does the reflector aspect!

The Christian life is relational, a personal relationship with Jesus. It is not religion made up by man. True salvation transforms the believer into His image. The believer is equipped to do this by the internal work of the Holy Spirit.

Application:

The New Covenant is God’s promise to man that He will forgive the sin of those who turn to Jesus in saving faith. The Old Covenant was established with God’s people through the Mosaic Law. In Old Testament times Israel had to offer daily sacrifices to atone for sin.

Entering the New Covenant is only possible by faith in Jesus who shed His blood to take away the the sin of the world. The one who enters into the New Covenant is given a new heart, the old one of stone is replaced by a heart of flesh. In Christ we are no longer under Law but under grace.

Under the New Covenant believers are those who have received salvation as a free gift. Through the life-giving Holy Spirit who lives in all believers we have a permanent, unbroken relationship with God. With urgency, share this message of life with those whom you meet every day who are lost in their sins. Be His hands and feet!

ROMANS 8:12-17 (CSB)

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, **13** because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all those led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “*Abba, Father!*” **16** The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children, **17** and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

- I. Hope, “assured expectation.” Believers have/the world needs.
- II. Christians in fellowship with God display an ever-increasing glory.
- III. Believers equipped to do this by the internal work of the Holy Spirit.
- IV. Conclusion, believers are REFLECTORS! Let your little light shine!

Homework, meditate on: **Hebrews 9:11-28**.