

INI Hymns:

Sermon 26-14

Transfiguration Sunday **2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

2/15/26

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 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.”

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Paul takes us back to Mt. Sinai when Moses asked to see God's glory. God said Moses, “I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.” Ex. 33:22-23. Moses visibly saw a greater display of God's glory than anyone else has ever seen. And how did that affect Moses? That is what we read about in Exodus 34. Moses didn't even realize it, but when he came down from the mountain, his own face was shining. God's glory was reflected in the face of Moses.

Paul says the same happens to us. Look at the last verse again, verse 18. “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.” We too see the glory of the Lord “As in a mirror.” Like Moses, we are sinners and so we cannot see God's full glory, but we see a reflection of it in the mirror of the gospel. The affect of seeing God's glory is the same for us. Paul says, we “are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.” God is transforming our lives so that we will be more and more like Christ, so that His glory shines through us. In short, we are to be

SEEING AND REFLECTING THE GLORY OF THE LORD!

-I- This has to begin with **Seeing the Glory of the LORD.** We can't reflect the Glory of the LORD unless we see His Glory. And that is what Paul is talking about in this text, why the Jews don't see the glory of the Lord and why believers everywhere do see it.

I used to think that Moses put a veil over his face because his face was too bright for the people to look at when he told them what God had said. But that wasn't it. It clearly says “when Moses had FINISHED speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.” Paul makes a very insightful application of this. He explains that Moses “put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.” The veil prevented them from seeing the glow of Moses face fade away. The fading glow of Moses face was symbolic of the fact that the Old Covenant of the law would pass away. It was never intended to be a permanent covenant. Then he says, “Their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.”

Paul says “the veil is taken away in Christ.” Jesus took away the veil so we could see that the Old Covenant of the Law has passed away. It is gone and has been replaced by a much more glorious covenant—the New Covenant of the Gospel of forgiveness. God says in Hebrews 10:8-10 “8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” God

took away the first covenant that made requirements of us, so that He might establish the second where Christ did all. But the Jews couldn't see that because, Paul says, "when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart." Just as the veil on Moses' face prevented them from seeing the glow fading away, so the Jews had a veil on their heart that prevents them from seeing that the law has passed away. They still look to the Law as being God's final word to the world. They believe that they can make themselves acceptable to God by keeping the law. As a result they couldn't see the greater glory of the Gospel. In fact they crucified the Lord of glory, their God and Saviour.

The Jews aren't the only ones who have this veil over their hearts. That is true of mankind in general. Human beings have a natural inclination towards the law. People believe that our value and worth comes from keeping the law. We are judged by how good we are. That is the way things work in this world, but that doesn't work before God. Because we can never be good enough to please God. That veil is basically human pride. We want to think that we can do something to our own credit. Give me a law that I can keep so I can prove to you that I am good enough.

Ironically, God gave us His law to prove that we are NOT good enough. No one will be justified or saved by keeping the law, God says. (Rom. 3:21-22) The law was preparatory for the New Covenant of the Gospel which is so much more glorious. Paul calls the law a "ministry of death" and "condemnation." The law shows us our sins and says, "the wages of sin is death." The law can only bring death and condemnation.

The covenant of the Gospel, on the other hand, is "the ministry of the Spirit." And "The Spirit gives life!" God says. The Gospel is "the ministry of righteousness." The law condemns us of our sins. The Gospel gives us Christ's perfect righteousness so we are not condemned but have eternal life. This New Covenant is so much more glorious. In the verses before our text Paul said, "For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory." verse 9.

Now Paul says in verses 16-17, "Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." The Holy Spirit is the Lord who takes away the veil and opens our eyes to see the true glory of Christ our Saviour. So we can actually see something greater than what Moses saw on Mt. Sinai. As Paul says in the last verse once again, "We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord." The Holy Spirit removed the veil from our faces so that we can see the true glory of the Lord.

And where do we see that glory of the Lord most clearly? It is at the cross. On the Mt. of transfiguration Peter, James and John saw Jesus' glory when His face began shining like the sun. They saw it even more as God the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" But we see His glory the most in what Moses and Elijah were talking to Jesus about. They "spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem." Luke 9:31 And then Jesus came down from the mountain and resolutely went to Jerusalem where He suffered and died for all the sins of the world. The glory of our Saviour shines the brightest in the world's darkest moment. When mankind crucified their God and Saviour, Jesus willingly endured it all to save those who hated Him and sinned against Him. That is the glory of the Gospel.

-II- So as we enter the season of Lent, prepare to see the glory of the LORD in all its brilliance once again. And that view of His Glory will transform our hearts and lives so that we can't help but

Reflect the Glory of the LORD.

When Moses came down from the Mountain after seeing the glory of the Lord, he didn't even realize that his own face was shining. It wasn't something that he decided to do. He couldn't make that happen if he wanted to. God caused his face to shine. The same is true for us. We do not

transform ourselves. Paul says, “We are BEING transformed into the same image.” When we see the glory of our Saviour, God transforms our hearts and lives with His love.

Paul literally says we go through a metamorphosis. It’s like God changes us from an ugly caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. Even more beautiful than that, we are metamorphosized into the same image, that is the image of Christ, from glory to glory, or in ever increasing glory. That is why Lent is a season of spiritual renewal. Because when we see Jesus’ humbleness and His desire to serve us, that changes our hearts from our natural pride and selfishness to be more like Him to desire to humbly serve one another. When we see Jesus’ love and compassion for all people and His deep sacrifice to save us, we will have a greater compassion to want to help people in their need. Especially in their greatest need for salvation, show them the glory of Christ.

Remember what Paul says, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LIBERTY.” When the spirit removes the veil from our heart so that the glory of the Lord shines upon our heart, that gives us Liberty—Freedom from the law. The Gospel of Christ sets us free from the demands and threats of the law, because Christ has perfectly fulfilled the law for us.

Christ doesn’t rule over us with the club of the law, saying you better do this or else. He rules us with His love. Paul says later in chapter 5, “For the love of Christ compels us” His love is what drives us to do His will, not the law. And look what Paul points to as evidence of that love. He points to the cross. “For the love of Christ compels us because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” 2 Cor. 5:14-15 So don’t view Jesus’ suffering to be filled with sorrow for Him. Look at his passion to see the great glory of His love for us and our salvation and see how God transforms your heart to be more like His.

Remember the first verse of our text. Paul says, “Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.” We don’t want to put a veil over our face. We don’t want to cover up the light of God’s grace. Rather, let your light shine brightly for all to see.

Amen.