

The New Covenant
Bold Confidence and Glory

II Corinthians 3:7-18

Context and Overview

- **Countering the dangerous attacks of evil false teachers who undermine Paul and his gospel teaching.**
 - See II Cor 11:1-5, 12-14
- **Paul is a minister of the New Covenant – a new and far superior way for man to relate to God!**
 - In Christ God is work on the *inside*, within the human heart, so that now we both *want to* and *can* do what God desires of
 - By God's Spirit we are given hearts of flesh, not stone, and are transformed to His glorious image.

The Old and the New

- A rabbinic-style *midrash*, a commentary on **Exodus 34:29-35**, affirming the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old.
 - Two details observed:
 - Temporary glow on Moses' face
 - Veil needed lest people be overwhelmed by God's glory
 - Two lessons taught: **II Cor 3:10,11; 3:18**
 - Lasting (thus superior) glory of the N.C.
 - Unhindered gaze – ongoing transformation into the glorious image of Christ.

The New Covenant and You

– The New **Covenant**

- I.e. binding agreement between two people that defines their relationship and responsibilities.
- Biblical covenants are not between equal parties! God establishes the terms. We accept or reject.
- In the history of God's dealing with man there are several such arrangements. The two most familiar: the Old and New Covenants...

– The **New Covenant**

- New *chronologically* but also in terms of *quality*
New and *different* – in this case far superior!

The New Covenant and You

- The New Covenant
- New Covenant Promises

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27

The New Covenant is written on the fleshly tablets of the heart. Under its terms the desire and the ability to do God's will are incorporated in the believing man's inmost being. It becomes second nature, the very wellspring of his choices and desires...

(Oswald Chambers)

The New Covenant and You

– Practical Implications

- The Christian life is not pressured obedience to God's commands, but rather the Spirit-led outgrowth and overflow of a new heart.
- Not gritting your teeth and doing what is right...
Not trying to fix what is wrong...
Not seeking to get what is missing...
But releasing what God has placed within!
- Illustration: leaves don't really 'change' colors – the true colors are simply 'unmasked' as chlorophyll dies off..

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- Illustration: leaves don't really 'change' colors – they simply begin to show their true color as the chlorophyll departs. As we mature in Christ our true colors become visible and start to dominate!