

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 5

Chapter 3: The “spirit” in the Old Testament Unveiled by the New Testament 29

May 2023

- Vs 1** Letters of commendation were a way for churches to identify whether a traveling preacher was a saint of good character. Churches also used these letters to make sure they were not taking in a member who was put out of another church for bad behavior.
- Vs 2** Paul didn't need a letter to commend him to the Corinthian church which he founded.
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- Vs 3** The Corinthian believers themselves were “the epistle of Christ” which commended Paul and the men with him.
- There was a word from God written in stone (The Law).
 - There was a word from God written in ink (The prophets).
 - Now there is a word from God written by the Spirit through the apostles to men's hearts.
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- 4-5** Although Paul has proven himself to be a good and faithful Christian brother, he knows that is not sufficient. He said, “***Our sufficiency is of God.***” If God didn't approve of him, his good Christian status would not stand alone.
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- Vs 6** God is the One who makes preachers “***able ministers.***” Many preachers have no ability to edify, challenge, lead, or inspire the congregation because God has not provided the enabling power.
- They are ***able ministers of the new testament***, of the spirit. There is a spirit (small “s”) in their words that gives life to the hearers.
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- Vs 7** The words that God gave to man were glorious. But those words alone do not impart life.
- The words of God on the tables of stone were first broken, then hidden away in the ark.
 - The glory that shined on Moses' face ceased to shine after a while.
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- Vs 8** “***How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?***” This does not refer to the Holy Spirit.
- When the truth contained in the glorious written scriptures is ministered to the heart, mind, and soul of another person, that ministration of the truth is the lasting glory.
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- Vs 9** The ministration of the Law condemned men and was glorious. There is a “***ministration of righteousness***” in the Old Testament scriptures that exceeds the Law in glory.
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10-11 The Law, which is done away, was glorious. Something in the Old Testament IS more glorious than the Law.

- The key is in **Revelation 19:10**. “...*the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*” Jesus Christ can be found in every book of the Old Testament. That is the spirit of righteousness.
 - **Luke 24:25-27** — Jesus “*expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.*”
 - Jesus showed His disciples that He was in all the Old Testament scriptures. That is the spirit that gives life.
 - **John 5:39** — Jesus said, “*Search the scriptures* (Old Testament scriptures); ...*they are they which testify of me.*” The testimony of the Old Testament scriptures is Jesus Christ:
 - Jesus Christ would come into the world, pay for the sins of mankind, save man by His grace, and give man righteousness that the Law could not provide.
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12-13 Moses put a veil on his face to hide the glory, but the glory was there, nonetheless.

- Unbelievers today, just like the unbelievers of Moses’ day could not see Jesus Christ in the Old Testament because the scriptures were veiled. But Jesus Christ was always there in those scriptures.
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Vs 14 Even today there is a blindness that prevents unbelievers from seeing Jesus Christ in the Old Testament Scriptures.

- Those who are “*in Christ*” (vs 14) can see Jesus everywhere in the Old Testament (Dan. 3:25, Isaiah 53, Psa. 22, Psa. 69, Lam 3, etc.).
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15-16 “...*the veil is upon their heart.*” It’s a heart problem. The veil is “*taken away*” (vs 16) when an individual or a nation “*shall turn to the Lord.*”

Vs 17 “*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*”

- In the context, this does not mean that you can do anything you want to do. We don’t have liberty to sin.
 - It means that now you have liberty to read the Old Testament and see Jesus there.
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Vs 18 “*We all with open face* (no veil) *beholding as in a glass* (a mirror) *the glory of the Lord, are changed...*”

- When you look in a mirror and see a problem, you correct it.
 - When you look in the Old Testament and it reveals a problem, you need to correct it.
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