

The New Covenant Belonging to the Church: The Difference Between Life and Death

Scripture Reading:

II Corinthians 3:1-16

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ The New Covenant for the Church provides the NT grace believer with
 - ◆ The **POSSESSION** of Eternal Life, and
 - ◆ The **HOPE** of **DISPLAYING** Eternal Life
- ◆ II Cor 3 explains the **LIFE** from this New Covenant , and the **DEATH** from the Law Covenant

Two Kinds of Ministers

(II Cor 2:17)

Those who “make a trade
of the Word of God”

- False apostles
 - cf II Cor 11:13-15

Those who are:

- “Sincere”
 - handling the Word of God accurately
- “Out of God”
 - as to their source

Two Kinds of Commendation (I Cor 3:1-6)

- ◇ **Ink-written letters of human commendation**
- ◇ **Holy Spirit-written letters of divine commendation**
 - ◇ **Ministered by God-competent ministers - 2:16c, 3:5**
 - ◇ **Ministering the New Covenant that gives LIFE - 3:6**
 - ◇ **Written by the Holy Spirit by means of regeneration - 3:3**
 - ◇ **Written in fleshly (living) table of the heart (mind, will) - 3:3**
 - ◇ **Written content of the writing: Christ's quality of LIFE - 3:3,6**

Two Kinds of Covenants (I Cor 3:6)

The New Covenant which
makes alive

A covenant of letters of lifeless
stone that produces death

- Cf Rom 7:10-13

Two Kinds of Glory (I Cor 3:7-15)

- ◆ The glory of the Law Covenant displayed by the glowing face of Moses, which was a fading glory-light (3:7) – cf Ex 34
- ◆ The glory of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is more glorious because the Holy Spirit produces Christ's indwelling Eternal Life, as shown forth by the works of true righteousness, NOT simply a fading luminescence (3:8-11)

Two Kinds of Glory (I Cor 3:7-15) continued

- ◆ We NT grace believers now have a hope of displaying the glory of Eternal Life (3:12)
- ◆ The purpose of the Law was to make plain that no man could keep the Law by their own strength. This purposes was veiled to their heart - Vs 13-15
- ◆ This veil is taken away in Christ when “their heart turns to (a quality of) Lord”, a convicting work of the Holy Spirit - cf Jn 16:8-11

◆ The ministry of the Law brings death, even though it had a **fading** of glory

◆ the ministry of the Holy Spirit bring Eternal Life and a hope of its demonstration – a **greater and enduring** glory

CONCLUSION