

The Possession and Display of Eternal Life by Means of the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading:

John 15:26; 16:7-15

INTRODUCTION

Paul's purpose of mentioning the New Covenant for the Church in II Corinthians 3 was to explain the differences between living the Christian life b self-effort, or by divinely-provided life

Contrasts Between Paul's Ministry and the Ministry of the 'False Salesmen' (False Apostles of II Corinthians 11:13-15)

Difference in how the Word of God is used:

- **'False salesmen'** – "(out) of heresy" = picking and choosing what they want the Word of God to say and mean
- **Paul** – "(out) of God", "(out) of sincerity"

Difference in Competence

- **'Salesmen'** (self-competence)
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- **Paul** (competence for ministry comes from God)

Contrasts Between Paul's Ministry and the Ministry of the 'False Salesmen' (False Apostles – II Corinthians 11:13-15)

Difference in Commendation

- **'Salesmen'** (paper epistles, written by men)
- **Paul** (living epistles (the lives of the Corinthian believers), written by the Holy Spirit through Paul's correct ministry of the Word of God)

Difference in Covenants

- **'Salesmen'** (promoted the covenant of OT Law that resulted in physical death)
- **Paul** (promoted a life-giving New Covenant)

Contrasts Between Paul's Ministry and the Ministry of the 'False Salesmen' (False Apostles – II Corinthians 11:13-15)

Difference in Kinds of Glory


- **'Salesmen'** - promoted a fading glory of luminescent light
 - Moses had to veil his face so that the people could look at him
 - Even though they could then look at him, they couldn't understand the purpose of the Law because their hearts were veiled
 - Ex 19:8 – presumption to keep the Law
 - Rom 10:3-4 - they misunderstood the purpose of trying to keep the Law
 - Rom 3:20 - the true purpose of the Law
- **Paul** – promoted a glory of Life which comes from the New Covenant - Col 1:27
 - A light of Eternal Life shown in an outward display of activity – cf Jn 1:4

**The Work of
the Holy Spirit
in Providing
New Covenant
Life
(Eternal Life)**

- ◆ **Jn 16:8-11 - Their Heart**
“whenever it turns to (a) lord” –
no definite article
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit is an ‘under-Lord’
to Christ
 - ◆ II Cor 3:16 – cf Jn 15:26, 16:13-15

The Work of
the Holy Spirit
in Producing
New Covenant
Life in
Activity

Freedom from the veiled purposes of the Law (II
Cor 3:17), cf Gal 3:24




An ongoing, growing process of reflecting (with
unveiled face!) the indwelling Life of Christ in or
daily lives



FROM glory (our righteous position in Christ) TO
glory (our righteous actions in daily life, stemming
from Christ's indwelling Life)

CONCLUSION

The ministry of the Law only results in failure and physical death, even though it had a fading glory



The ministry of the Holy Spirit brings Eternal Life and a hope of demonstrating that glory – a great and an enduring glory