

Romans 8:21 Freedom from _____

Question: What does a mirror do? How does that relate to the "transformation" that gradually takes place in the life of a believer?

2 Cor 3:18 _____

Question: Paul again reminds us that this is all the work of the Holy Spirit. When – and in what way – will our transformation be complete?

Questions for Further Discussion:

Did the Israelites at Mount Sinai *only* have the Law of Moses? Or did they have the Gospel, too? How do you know?

What are the proper ways for the Law to be used? What are some improper ways?

What is "legalism"?

Scripture says that Jesus is the "end of the Law." So does a person who is a Christian still need the Law? Why or why not?

II CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Part 6: The Surpassing Glory of the New Covenant

Warm-up: Can you think of time in your life when you owned something (a car, a house, something else) that you considered quite good, but you later found that, when you replaced it, the replacement was *much, much better*?

Question: In the previous verse (3:6), Paul had said that "the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." Again, what two things was he comparing?

Question: the rest of this chapter will be a deep dive into the differences between the "Old Covenant" (the Law, given on Mt. Sinai) and the "New Covenant" (the Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ). Read vv. 7-8. To begin with, what is one thing, at least, that both covenants have *in common*?

2 Cor 3:7-8 _____

1 Timothy 1:8 _____

Question: Paul's opponents in Corinth were evidently impressive preachers, with impressive credentials and letters of recommendation (v 1). But they preached justification by works (Law), and what kind of ministry is that, according to Paul?

By contrast with this, how does Paul refer to the Gospel in v 7?

Question: what picture from Israel's history does Paul use to illustrate the glory of the Old Covenant?

Exodus 34:29-30 _____

Question: What feature of this picture does he emphasize in v 8, and why? What's the contrast with the New Covenant?

Question: What's the second way in which the ministry of the New Covenant differs from the Old?

2 Cor 3:9-11 _____

Question: But the Law can also acquit – it can declare a person innocent and righteous. Why does Paul refer to it as “the ministry of condemnation”?

Question: Why could Paul and the other ministers of the New Covenant be much more bold in their ministry than Moses was in his?

2 Cor 3:12-13 _____

Question: Now the picture of the veil shifts somewhat. Before, Paul had depicted it covering the face of Moses. Where does he picture the veil lying now?

2 Cor 3:14-15 _____

Question: The Jews heard the Law read to them every week in the synagogue service. In what way was their vision of the Law obscured and “veiled”? How did they misunderstand it?

Question: In what way do all people, by nature, have a “veil over their hearts”?

Question: Paul says more about this in Romans. How was Jesus the “end of the Law”?

Romans 10:1-4 _____

Question: What did Jesus Himself say about His relationship to the Law?

Matthew 5:17 _____

Question: By nature, every human being has this “veil” over his heart. In what way only can the veil be lifted?

2 Cor 3:16 _____

Question: This “turning to the Lord” is accomplished only by Whom?

2 Cor 3:17 _____

Question: . . . and wherever HE is there is “liberty,” or freedom. What are some of the ways we experience freedom when the Holy Spirit calls us to faith?

Galatians 5:18 Freedom from: _____

Romans 6:6-7 Freedom from _____