

- ◆ What does Christ do for the individual that removes the Law from their lives?
- ◆ John 1.17 What does Jesus provide that the Law could not?
- ◆ Some today are saying we should be following the Old Covenant Law as followers of Christ. Read Galatians 5.4 What is Paul's response to this line of thinking?
- ◆ 1 Peter 1.13 What should be our focus instead of the Law?

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2ND LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH THE QUESTION OF THE 2 COVENANTS?

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COVENANTS CONTRASTED

[2 Cor. 3:1] Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? [2] You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; [3] being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.1 This is Paul's fourth letter to the church at Corinth. (1 Cor. 5.9 refers to a previous letter that has never been found. 2 Cor. 7.8 refers to what has been called the letter of sorrows that also has never been found.) He is the founding pastor of the church (Acts 18.1-18) and has visited them on at least two other occasions. (2 Cor. 13.2) Why would he ask them about a letter of recommendation or introduction?
- ◆ How would this question be designed to shock or shame them?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.2 Why could Paul consider the members of the church as letters of recommendation?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.3 How does Paul emphasize that their lives represent the work they have done there?

- ◆ Read Exodus 31.18 & Exodus 32.15. (Note: When a treaty was signed there were two copies. One for each party. Here both copies are given to Moses and they are kept in the Ark of the Covenant. (1 Kings 8.9; Hebrews 9.4)) What do we know about the two tablets from the Old Testament?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.3 How does Paul contrast the way the old covenant was delivered and maintained to the way the new covenant is seen?

- ◆ What key point is Paul trying to get the members of the Church at Corinth to see about themselves?

- ◆ Besides the tablets can you list other ways the two covenants were different from each other?

COVENANTS & CONDITIONS

[2 Cor. 3.4] Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. [5] Not that we are adequate in ourselves to

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.16 What happens to the individual when they accept Jesus as their personal savior?

- ◆ How does this image represent a change in the relationship between the individual and God?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3. 17 What is the key to understanding how this new relationship with God changes the individual?

- ◆ How is this different from the person who is living under the judgment of the Law?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.18 How is the image of believes with unveiled faces a way of showing their relationship with God?

- ◆ What is the results of this new relationship and openness with God?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

- ◆ What is the purpose of the Law?

- ◆ Read Exodus 34.33-35
- ◆ What happened to Moses when he went in to speak with God?
- ◆ What did he do to hide from the people what was happening to his face?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.13 Why did he do this?
- ◆ What does this veil symbolize in the life of a person?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.14 What was the effect of the Old Covenant on the lives of the Hebrews?
- ◆ What is the only cure for this?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.15 What happens to them when they read the rules, regulations and instructions of the Old Covenant law?
- ◆ What does this symbolize in their lives as far as their relationship with God goes?

consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, [6] who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.4-5 Why is Paul so confident in all he does and writes?
- ◆ What is the source of his confidence?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.6 Which of the two covenants does Paul see himself under?
- ◆ Read Romans 3.20 How does Paul describe the purpose of the Law?
- ◆ Read 1 Cor. 15.56-57 What is the result of a sinful life?
- ◆ What is used as a measuring line for a sinful life?
- ◆ What can release us from sin, death and the law?
- ◆ Read Acts 2.38 What is a person supposed to do to be freed from the power of the Law?

- ◆ Read Acts 17.30-31 Why should a person repent of their sins? (Note: The word repent means to change directions. It means a person is to accept Jesus as their personal savior and walk away from and reject sin from their life.)
- ◆ Read Romans 6.14 What happens to the law when a person becomes a follower of Jesus?
- ◆ How is the Law still in effect for some people and no longer in effect for others?

COVENANTS CHANGED

[2 Cor. 3.7] But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, [8] how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? [9] For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. [10] For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. [11] For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.7 How does Paul describe the way the Hebrews saw the Old Covenant when there was nothing to compare it to?

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.8 What does Paul want them to know about the New Covenant?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.9 How does Paul contrast the Old and New Covenants?
- ◆ 2 Cor.3.10-11 What happened to the Old Covenant when it is compared to the New Covenant?

COVENANTS & CLARITY

[2 Cor. 3.12] Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, [13] and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. [14] But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. [15] But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; [16] but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. [17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. [18] But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- ◆ 2 Cor. 3.12 What is the hope Paul is referring to here?
- ◆ Read 1 Timothy 1.1 What do we know about the hope of this New Covenant?