

“The Glory Of The Gospel”
2 Corinthians 3:6-11

Introduction:

1. This Morning - We're Going To Head Back To:
 - 2 Corinthians 3:
 - Where We Were Before I Got Sick!
 - And - I Would Like To Thank Brother Art Again For Preaching For Me On Relatively Short Notice:
 - For The Last Two Weeks!
 - But - If You Recall Where We Last Were In 2 Corinthians:
 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Was Proclaiming:
 - That His “Sufficiency Is Of God!” (3:5)
 - That Is:
 - Everything He ***Had*** & Everything He ***Was*** & Everything He ***Did***:
 - Was Provided To Him By God!
 - In Fact - In 3:6:
 - Paul Explained That It Was God Who:
 - “Made” Him & Enabled Him To Be An:
 - “Able Minister / Servant Of The New Testament!”
2. We Need To Constantly Remember This Truth As Well!
 - “Our Sufficiency Is Of God!”
 - This Means That - All That ***You*** Have, All That ***You*** Are, And All That ***You*** Do:
 - Is Provided By & Enabled By The Lord!
 - He Deserves All The Credit!
 - He Deserves All The Glory!
3. Well - After Recognizing This In His Own Life:
 - Paul Then Proceeds To Talk A Bit More:
 - About This “New Testament” Or “New Covenant”:
 - By Which He Simply Means The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - And He Wants To Remind Us Of Just How Good & Glorious The Gospel Is!
 - Which We Find In:
 - 3:5-11 - “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; / Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. / But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: / How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? / For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. / For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excellet. / For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious!”
 - 11 Times Paul Uses The Word “Glorious” In One Form Or Another!
 - And He Compares The Glory Of The Old Testament & Covenant With The Glory Of The New Testament, Which Is The Gospel!
 - And Paul Finds It Necessary To Do This:
 - Because Some False Teachers:
 - Had Infiltrated The Corinthian Church In His Absence:
 - And Tried To Get New Testament Christians To Live According To Old Testament, Jewish Law!
 - They Ignored The Fact That The Old Was Always Designed To Point To The New! (Galatians 3:24)
4. But - The Truth Is:
 - This Is Something That We Often Struggle With As Well!
 - It Is Always Tempting To Make Faith & Religion:
 - Into Something External:
 - A List Of Do's & Don'ts:
 - And Focusing On The Letter Of God's Law!

- Instead Of Remembering What The **Gospel** Does:
 - It Brings Faith & Religion Into The Heart:
 - To Live According To:
 - The Power & The Spirit Of God's Law!

5. And We Must Never Get Over The Glory Of This Gospel!

* First - We See The:

1. Glory Of Its Power!

- The Power Of The Gospel!
 - Find In 3:6 - "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life!"
 - There Was A Certain Power Given:
 - To The Old Covenant & The Old Testament That God Used To Form The Nation Of Israel At The Time Of Moses!
 - But Its Power Was External!
 - It Was A **Law** That Was Written Down & Required Absolute Obedience!
 - But Instead Of Providing The **Power** To Obey, The Old Testament Law Only **Proved** That:
 - We **Cannot** Obey!
 - And So - "The Letter Killeth!"
 - This Means That The Law:
 - Convicts Each One Of Us:
 - Of Our Inability To Obey God, So We Are All **Guilty** Before God!
 - But The Power Of The Gospel – The New Testament:
 - Is Different & Is So Much Better!
 - Because Of:
 - The Sphere Of Its Power!
 - The Power Of The Old Was External!
 - But The Power Of The New Is Internal:
 - It Is "Spiritual!"
 - And This Makes All The Difference In The World, Doesn't It?
 - **IE:** Remember Jacob & His Initial Agreement To Work 7 Years For Rachel To Be His Wife? Genesis 29:20 - "They seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her!"
 - Probably Not The Same Feeling When He Was Working For The Sheep & Cattle!
 - When You Do Something Just Because It Is Your Duty:
 - It Can Become A Drudgery! (External)
 - But When You Do Something Because It Is Your Own Desire: (Internal)
 - It Can Be A Delight!
 - And This Is Something Only The Gospel Can Do:
 - To A Sinners Heart!
 - It Turns God's Law From A "Have To" Into A "Get To!" (From Duty To Desire!)
 - And Now - You Can Love God's Law, Long For God's Law, And Even Live Out God's Law:
 - Because Of What Jesus Christ Has Done In Your Heart! Also:
 - The Source Of Its Power!
 - "The Spirit Giveth Life!"
 - Because The New Testament Is Spiritual:
 - Its Source Must Be Spiritual As Well!
 - And So - I Believe This Refers To The Holy Spirit Of God:
 - Referred To Back In 3:3 - "The Spirit Of The Living God" - Who Alone Can:
 - Bring Spiritual Life Into Your Dead & Sinful Heart!
 - Only The Power Of The Gospel:
 - Can Give You Spiritual Life:
 - And Cause You To Take An Interest In:
 - The Things Of God!
 - This Is The Glory Of The Gospel!

* Second - We See The:

2. *Glory Of Its Promise!*

- The Promise Of The Gospel!
 - Find In 3:7-8 - “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: / How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?”
 - “Ministration” Means An Economy Or An Administration:
 - **IE:** Similar To When We Talk About A “Presidential Administration!” And How The “Administration” Of President Trump Is Drastically Different Than The “Administration” Of President Obama - Even Though The Structure Is Pretty Much The Same!
 - And So - When It Comes To The Old Testament - We See:
- The Need For A New Promise!
 - When God Gave His People The Ten Commandments:
 - Through Moses - On Mount Sinai - It Was Done:
 - In A “Glorious” Manner!
 - Imagine What It Must Have Been Like!
 - According To Exodus 19:9 - The Lord Came “In A Thick Cloud!” / In Exodus 19:16 - “There were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled!” / In Exodus 19:18 - “And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly!” / Exodus 24:16 - “And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai!”
 - So - Moses & All The People Of Israel:
 - Experienced The Glory Of God With All Their Senses!
 - They Saw The Lightning! They Heard The Thunder! They Felt The Earthquake! And They Probably Smelled The Smoke!
 - And With All Of This Glory, God Gave His Law - Exodus 20:2-3 - “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. / Thou shalt have no other gods before me!”
 - God’s Law Came With Great Glory! But:
 - It Turned Out To Be A Fatal Glory!
 - How Does Paul Describe God’s Law?
 - 3:7 - As “The Ministration Of Death!”
 - God’s Good & Glorious Law Was Designed To Reveal Just How Sinful We Really Are, And To Bring Us To Complete Helplessness & Hopelessness On Our Own!
 - We Are “Dead In Trespasses And Sins!”
 - And We Need A Better Way To Experience The Life Of God!
 - It Was Also A Fearful Glory!
 - The Glory Of God That Was Revealed At Mount Sinai Was So Great - 3:7 - “The children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance!” (Exodus 34:28-35)
 - When Moses Came Out From The Presence Of God, His Face Glowed & Shined From The Glory Of God!
 - But The People Could Not Stand It!
 - And They Were Afraid Of It!
 - And So Moses Put A Veil Over His Face Whenever He Went Out To Speak To The People!
 - They Needed A Better Way To Experience God’s Presence!
 - Because Of Their Sinfulness, They Could Not Stand Before Even The Reflection Of God’s Glory In The Face Of Moses!
 - It Was Also A Fading Glory!
 - Even Though The Glory Of God At Mount Sinai Was Powerful & Pervasive & Penetrating:
 - It Was Still A Passing Glory!
 - 3:7 - “Which glory was to be done away!”
 - Eventually:
 - The Trumpet Was Silenced, The Cloud Dispersed, The Lightning & Thunder & Earthquake Ceased / And Even The Glow On Moses’ Face Would Fade Away!
 - And We Would All Need A Better Way To Experience God’s Glory!

- And So - God Made A New Promise:
 - To Provide Everything We Needed To:
 - Experience God's Life, God's Presence, And God's Glory In All Of Its Fulness!
 - And We Find:
- The Nature Of The New Promise:
 - In 3:8 - "How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?"
 - The Law Was God's "Ministration Of Death!"
 - But The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is The:
 - "Ministration Of The Spirit!"
 - The Work Of The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - This Was A Special Promise Made By God:
 - Back In The Old Testament Book Of:
 - Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. / And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them!"
 - And All This Takes Place When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ & Are Saved!
- The Promise Of The Gospel:
 - Is More Glorious Than The Presentation Of The Law:
 - Because Only The Promise Of The Gospel:
 - Can Bring You From Death Unto Life!
 - John 5:24 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life!"
 - And Now - You **Can** Experience:
 - The Life Of God, The Presence Of God, And Even The Glory Of God!
 - This Is The Glory Of The Gospel!

* Third - We See The:

3. ***Glory Of Its Purpose!***

- The Purpose Of The Gospel!
 - Find In 3:9-10 - "For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. / For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth!"
 - Why Was The Gospel Needed In The First Place?
- To Bring Much Needed Pardon:
 - To Sinners Like Us!
 - This Is Why Paul Also Calls The Old Testament Law:
 - "The Ministration Of Condemnation!"
 - This Was One Main Reason Why God Gave Us His Law Back In Exodus 20!
 - To Render His Judgment:
 - On Us As Sinners!
 - I've Heard It Said - When You Share The Gospel:
 - That Before You "***Get Someone Saved***" You First:
 - Have To "***Get Them Lost!***"
 - And This Is What God Designed His Law To Do!
 - And This Is A Glorious Thing!
 - This Is Why Paul Says: "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!" (Romans 7:12)
 - God's Law Is Holy & Just & Good:
 - Because It Reflects The Holy Nature & Character Of God!
 - God's Law Is Holy & Just & Good:
 - Because It Reveals Your Need & Condemnation As A Sinner!
 - But When The Gospel Comes:
 - It Offers You The Solution For Your Sin!
 - And Brings Pardon To You As A Sinner Who Was Condemned With A Sentence Of Eternal Death!

- The Gospel Was Also Needed:
- To Bring Much Needed Purity:
 - To Sinners Like Us!
 - This Is Why Paul Calls The New Testament Gospel:
 - “The Ministration Of Righteousness!”
 - It Is One Thing:
 - To Be Pardoned:
 - From Your Sin!
 - It Is Another Thing:
 - To Be Completely Purged From Your Sin:
 - And Made Pure!
 - This Is Absolutely Necessary:
 - To Stand In The Presence Of God!
 - But - Once Again - This Is What Jesus Christ Came To Do!
 - To Justify You!
 - And To Provide **For** You All The Righteousness That The Law Requires!
- According To Romans 3:24 - We Are “Justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!”
- And This Is Why:
 - The Purpose Of The Gospel Is More Glorious Than The Purpose Of The Law!
 - Because Even Though The Law:
 - Will **“Get You Lost”** – It Is The Gospel:
 - And Jesus Christ Alone Who Can **“Get You Found / Saved!”**
 - The Gospel Alone Offers The Pardon & Purity You Need Through Person & Work Of Jesus Christ!
 - In Fact - The Glory Of The Gospel Is So Great:
 - According To 3:10 - Its As If The Law:
 - Had No Glory At All!
 - The Glory & Brightness Of The Gospel Outshines The Glory Of The Law!
 - **IE:** Like The Light Of A Candle Being Outshined By The Light Of A Lamp & Then Of The Sun! Power Outage!

* Fourth - We See The:

4. **Glory Of Its Permanence!**

- The Permanence Of The Gospel!
 - Find In 3:11 - “For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.”
 - According To This Verse We Learn:
 - That The Old Testament Administration:
 - “Is Done Away!”
 - This Means That The Old Testament Way Of Doing Things:
 - Has Been Phased Out!
 - **IE:** Its Kind-Of Like The Older Generations Of Your Smart-Phone - Slowly Being Phased Out, To Make Way For The Newer, The Faster, The Better!
 - According To Hebrews 8:6 - **Jesus** Is The Newer / **Jesus** Is The Better / **Jesus** Has “Obtained a more excellent ministry!” / And **Jesus** “Is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises!”
 - So - The Old Made Way For The New!
 - And The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is So Much Better & So Much Greater In Its Glory! See This In:
 - The Degree Of Its Glory:
 - The Old Testament Law:
 - **“Was** Glorious!”
 - This Means - That It Came With God’s Glory!
 - Which We Read About In Exodus! But That Glory Faded Away!
 - But - The New Testament - The Gospel:
 - **“Is** Glorious!”
 - This Means - The Gospel Is Glorious In Its Own Nature!
 - And Its Glory Will Never Fade Away!

- The Difference Between The Two:
 - Is The Difference Between:
 - The Glory Of Moses & The Glory Of Jesus!
 - The Glory Of Moses On Mount Sinai Was Just A Reflection Of God's Glory - And Was Temporary!
 - But The Glory Of Jesus On The Mount Of Transfiguration Was A Revelation Of His Own Glory, As God! This Also Shows To Us:
- The Duration Of Its Glory:
 - The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is:
 - "That Which Remaineth!"
 - And Its Glory Will Last As Long As Jesus Lasts!
 - Instead Of Fading Away, It Will Last Forever!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Glory Of The Gospel!
 - It Is Glorious:
 - In Its Power!
 - In Its Promise!
 - In Its Purpose!
 - In Its Permanence!
 - It Is Glorious:
 - Because Jesus Is Glorious! And He Is The Only One:
 - Who Can Change & Transform:
 - Your Heart & Life!
2. Are You Trusting In This Gospel?
 - Are You Living According To:
 - The Gospel Of God's Grace?
 - We Must Never Get Over The Glory Of This Gospel!

***Grace Baptist Church
 Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***