

2 Corinthians 3:1-18 **Letters of Commendation – Glory of Ministry**

Letters of Commendation

¹ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? ² You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

Trust in God

⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Glory of ministries both Old & New

⁷ But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, ⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

Veil Taken Away in Christ

¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- ¹³ unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.

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Facts Revealed:

Letters of Commendation [2 Corinthians 3:1-3]

- ✚ The evidence of Apostleship is seen in the fruit of their labor, the believers they led to knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ It is not found in formal recognition from an organization, but in the lives of the Saints to whom they ministered, and whom they hold dear in their hearts.

Trust in God [2 Corinthians 3:4-6]

- ✚ Our trust is in God who has made us sufficient for the work through Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Our ministry is of the New Covenant of the Spirit Who gives life.
- ✧ The Old Covenant was of the Law which brought knowledge of sin and its condemnation to death.

Glory of ministries both Old & New [2 Corinthians 3:7-11]

- ✚ The Old Covenant of the Law written on stone tablets by the finger of God Himself, the Ten Commandments, was glorious as indicated by the radiance of the face of Moses. [Exodus 34:29-35]

- ✧ The glory of the Law is fading away as seen in the fading radiance of Moses' face.
- ✧ The New Covenant of the Spirit is more glorious based on a better covenant through Jesus Christ. [\[Hebrews 7:22, 8:6\]](#)
- ✧ The face of Jesus shone like the sun on the Mount of Transfiguration as a glimpse of the greater glory. [\[Matthew 17:1-2\]](#)
- ✧ The Glory of the new is growing as seen in the glorified Christ of [\[Revelation 1:9-18\]](#)

Veil Taken Away in Christ [\[2 Corinthians 3:12-18\]](#)

- ✧ The veil that blinded the Children of Israel regarding the revelation of God in the days of Moses, still blinds the minds of the Jews of today in the reading of the Old Testament.
- ✧ The veil is taken away in Christ Jesus for those who come to believe the Gospel.
 - ✧ The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
 - ✧ We, as in a mirror, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as we grow in understanding by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - ✧ John gives a very similar concept saying:
 - 1 John 3:2
 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
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