

VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: 2 Corinthians 3:18, The Unveiled Face

Removing the Veil of Unbelief Unveils the Glory of Christ

In order to appreciate what Paul is trying to communicate here we need to take a quick look at an Old Testament passage, Exodus 34:29-Exodus 34:35.

This is the historical background for what Paul seeks to teach in 2 Corinthians: if the ministry of the Law which led to spiritual death was accompanied with glory, then the ministry of the righteousness will much more be accompanied with glory.

In other words: if the Shekinah Glory was reflected in the face of Moses when he received the Law then it will even more so be reflected in the soul of the believer who learns doctrine.

2 Corinthians 3:7 - If the ministry of death [spiritual death due to human inability to keep the Law] in letters engraved on stones [primarily the 10 Commandments], came with glory [see Exodus 34:29-Exodus 34:35], so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory in his face, fading as it was,

2 Corinthians 3:8 - how shall the ministry of the Holy Spirit fail to be even more with glory [doctrine learned through His enabling power will produce an even more powerful glory in the soul of the believer].

2 Corinthians 3:9 - For if the ministry of condemnation [revelation of the Law] has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness [matriculation in the Grace Academy] abound in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:10 - For indeed what had glory [the Law], in this case has no glory [the doctrines of the resurrected Christ supersede the teachings of the Law, thus robbing the Law of its glory] on account of the glory that surpasses it.

2 Corinthians 3:11 - For if that which fades away was with glory [the impact of the Law on Moses], much more that which remains is in glory [impact of mystery doctrine on the believer].

2 Corinthians 3:12 - Having therefore such a hope [confident expectation of the acquisition of this glory], we use great boldness in our speech [no pusillanimous communication of truth]

2 Corinthians 3:13 - and are not as Moses, who used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away [ebbing of glory from Moses' face].

2 Corinthians 3:14 - But their minds were hardened [negative volition], for until this very day at the reading of the Old Testament Scriptures, the same veil remains un-lifted [those who are negative to truth cannot understand truth] because it can only be removed by faith in Christ [salvation removes the veil and makes available all the assets for learning truth].

2 Corinthians 3:15 - But to this day when Moses is read, the veil [negative volition at Gospel hearing] lies over their heart [*kardia*: stream of consciousness];

2 Corinthians 3:16 - but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away [enrollment into the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics].

This is one of several documentary passages which establish the principle that the unbeliever cannot know God, love God, worship God, or serve God.

When this veil is taken away, the Holy Spirit becomes available as the power source by which the believer may capitalize on his assets and learn the curriculum of the Grace Academy.

At the moment of salvation all of these things become operational. God has a system that provides the environment in which our spiritual advance is accomplished.

The perfect power source is the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The perfect system is the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

And the perfect environment in which they both function is the Divine Power System.

There is one other ingredient which makes this system conform to the grace policy of the Plan of God and that is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Holy Spirit and where the Holy Spirit is - freedom!

For the believer the Holy Spirit can have as many as two locations:

The body through the indwelling ministry in which the Holy Spirit creates a temple for the indwelling of the Shekinah Glory.

The soul through the filling of the Holy Spirit made possible by the unique prerogative of the priesthood which is confession alone to God alone.

2 Corinthians 3:17 tells us that wherever the Holy Spirit is, there is freedom. When He fills the soul, the believer may utilize his volition to access his assets.

The unbeliever is enslaved to his sinful nature and has no freedom to do anything but that which its desires demand of him.

The cosmic believer has chosen to re-enslave himself to the sinful nature and is neutralized in the Angelic Conflict.

But the believer who capitalizes on his portfolio of invisible assets through positive volition to the Plan of God is said to be free.

He is free to advance in the Plan, to seize control of his life, and to be blessed and rewarded by God in both time and eternity.

No person can know God, love God, worship God, or serve God from his own talent, resources, abilities, and energy.

Only the Scriptures reveal God. You cannot know Someone about Whom you are ignorant. You cannot love Someone you do not know. You cannot worship a God you do not love. You cannot serve a God you do not worship.

The only way to please God is to fulfill His Plan. The glory of Christ must be transformed into your soul for the execution of the Christian way of life.

The transfiguration of the indwelling Shekinah Glory into the soul of the believer is subject of 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Transfiguration of the Shekinah Glory into the Believer's Soul

2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all with an unveiled face looking into a mirror to produce a reflection, namely the glory of the Lord, are being transfigured into that same image from glory to glory as it were from the Holy Spirit.