

2 Corinthians 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? (Paul had established the church. Does he now need a letter of recommendation? He shouldn't. He was chosen to teach the Bible by God Himself)

²Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: (Their belief in God's Word <their Christianity> is Paul's epistle. Christians make a difference in the world – the way that we live; what we believe; how we treat other people)

³Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (They were ministered by Paul, but in the love of Jesus Christ. They don't need letters of recommendation from men)

NOTES: (The Spirit of God shines in good Christians. People who have converted to Christianity, from Islam, all say that. They immediately see an almighty God who shows tremendous love and compassion to His people. They are instantly drawn to Him and to us)

(That may be why the Muslims, Hindus and other worldly religions see Christianity as a threat. It is the only way of life that brings great joy and peace of mind)

⁴And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: (They trust in Jesus Christ that God has given them His Word) (Jesus is God with us – Immanuel) Isaiah-7:14

⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; (Their works are of God, not of themselves. It's the Word of God that sets us free; not some preacher)

(Jesus said – You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free) see John-8:32

⁶Who 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. (Paul is trying to say that the letter of the law – we all break; but the Spirit of God forgives us and gives us life; when we repent. We need to have the letter of the law to live by. But when we fall short, it is the Spirit of forgiveness by God that returns us to salvation upon repentance)

NOTES: (Preachers ignorantly teach that this says that the New Testament made the Old Testament obsolete – NOT SO. Only the blood ordinances were fulfilled by Jesus on the cross. The Law <Ten Commandments> still applies. The prophecies of the Old Testament also still apply)

(When Jesus was teaching, He would answer questions with - "haven't you read it? It is written... ". HE was referring to the Old Testament. It is still valid today, as it was then. It's the statutes and ordinances that Moses instituted that were voided. Today, we live by the laws of our country; but the Ten Commandments will always be God's law. They show us how to live and to be blessed by God)

⁷But 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: (If the Law <Ten Commandments> is glorious)

⁸How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? (Then the forgiveness and salvation of Jesus Christ is far more glorious)

⁹For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. (Both testaments work together for the glory of God – The Old and the New Testaments; they complete each other)

¹⁰For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

¹¹For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. (The penalties for breaking the law of the Old

Testament have been replaced and exceeded by the repentance and forgiveness through Jesus in the New Testament)

NOTE: (There will never be a "3rd Testament. Those that claim to have a revised word of God are fakes and cults – such as: Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Muslims, Christian preachers who claim to have had a new vision, etc)

(Jesus said – behold, I have told you all things)

¹²Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: (We teach plainly so that everyone will learn. The glory is in God, not in the preacher)

¹³And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: (Like the veil that Moses wore after meeting with God was temporary; only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of holies, and then only on Passover)

(Jesus ended that. HE made God available to all Christians. We can speak directly to God as believers in Jesus Christ. HE is our advocate)

¹⁴But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. (When Jesus was crucified, we all were given direct access to God. There is no need for a high priest anymore)

NOTE: (Verses 13 & 14 are an analogy – The people could not see the glory of God in Moses' face; but we can see the full glory of God in Jesus' face. The people could not see the events that will lead to end of days in the Old Testament. It was all revealed to us by Jesus in the New Testament – the Three Ages, where we come from, why we are here in flesh bodies, where we are going when we die)

¹⁵But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. (By reading just the Old Testament they leave out the forgiveness that Jesus brought us. That is part of the New Testament. By only reading the New Testament, they leave out all of the

prophecies that were fulfilled; and why the New Testament is necessary)

(God's Word is made up of both the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testaments prophecies of the New; and the New Testament fulfills the Old) see Matthew-23:2-12

NOTE: (The Jews only teach the Old Testament. The Christian preachers only teach the New Testament. Both groups are only teaching half of God's Word. The New Testament is built upon the Old. Both are necessary to fully understand God's Word)

¹⁶ Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. (Jesus opened salvation to whosoever will believe upon Him and repent for their sins)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (The truth <God's Word> sets us free from sin and spiritual death. It gives us peace of mind)

NOTES: (There is one God – He has many offices: the Father <the Creator>, Jesus <the Savior>, His Holy Spirit <the Comforter>, Meschizedek <the man who walked with Abraham>, the Angel of the Lord <God in angelic form>, etc. These are all one God)

(God is who, when and where He chooses to be, at any time. The trinity was invented by the early church because they misunderstood the power of God)

¹⁸ But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (The Holy Spirit)