



NOVEMBER 2022

2 Corinthians 3: Proof Is In The Product

Introductory Statement: The Apostle Paul is concerned about the progress of the young Believers that he has helped to establish in the knowledge of the LORD JESUS, the CHRIST, and in HIS Kingdom. In this chapter he counters the suggestion by outsiders which suggest that he needs to produce recommendations, verifying his position in the Kingdom of GOD and in the lives of the Believers. The Apostle not only addresses this issue, but proceeds to expound upon what is the actual deposit that has been invested in their lives.

Summary Points:

- Who/What is the source of the issue that Paul is addressing?
- What is required for salvation?
- Where does Moses and the Law fit in this?
- What is GOD's New Way?

Objectives: By the end of our session we should be able to grasp the significance of what Faith in JESUS, the CHRIST, does in the life of everyone who believes.

The Warmup (Review)

Change-Up in Corinth

1. Paul's apostolic ministry of founding "churches" was always followed up by trouble-makers
 - a. Judaizers – Christianity must be within the framework of Judaism (circumcision) – Acts 15:1-13, 28-29 (NIV)
 - b. False "Super" Apostles – challenged Paul's Apostolic authority claiming that they, too, were apostles.



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2. Paul reminds the Believers gathered at Corinth that the ministry to them was offered with Integrity and GOD's Grace
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 (NIV)
 - b. 2 Corinthians 2:14b-17 (MSG)

THE WORKOUT

PAUL ASSERTS HIS MINISTERIAL IMPACT WITH HUMILITY

1. My credibility doesn't come from recommendations to or from you Corinthians
2 Corinthians 3:1-3 (MSG)
 - a. Endorsement were common place and often necessary in the early church
 - b. Paul, himself, provided endorsements (*Romans 16:12; 1 Corinthians 16:3, 10-11 NLT*)
2. My credibility is evidenced Through You
 - a. Your life is a letter that anyone can read, just by looking at you
 - b. You are GOD's Masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10 *NLT*)
 - c. The Masterful letter that you are is written by JESUS with the HOLY SPIRIT (2 Corinthians 3:3 MSG)
3. My confidence is through CHRIST, before the FATHER
2 Corthinans 3:4-6 (MSG)
 - a. JESUS works immeasurably more through us than we can imagine (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)
 - b. This competence flows from the life-giving New Covenant



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4. My life under the old covenant, though given in glorious fashion, resulted in death
 - a. GOD's glory upon Moses as he delivered the written tablets with GOD's instruction did not last. Exodus 34:29-35 (NIV)
 - b. The OT sacrifices were repeated actions of death to atone for sins Hebrews 9:22 (NIV)
 - c. The veil upon Moses' face was a reminder of the distance between GOD and man
 - i. Moses, You talk to GOD for us. Exodus 20:18-20 (MSG)
 - ii. The veil remains upon the hearts and minds of those who are not in CHRIST
5. My life under the new covenant results in a greater life-giving glory 2 Corinthians 3:7-8 (MSG)
 - a. The Glory of the HOLY SPIRIT is eternal, outlasting the tangible, manifestation of GOD's presence upon Moses' countenance. It doesn't fade away.
 - b. In JESUS, the CHRIST, the veil has been torn and we have continuous access to the FATHER
 - c. Once I receive HIM, the veil is lifted (not before) – John 1:12 (MSG)

The Cool Down

YOU AND I CAN LIVE IN THE EMBRACE OF HIS GLORY...FACE-TO-FACE

- 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (MSG)
 - GOD is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseld stone
 - GOD is personally present with you. The old constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete
 - You're Free...nothing between you and GOD
 - Your face shines with HIS Glory
 - Your life is Transfigured, like JESUS, as you gradually become more like HIM each day (Mark 9:2-8 MSG)

- You can't earn right-standing with GOD, it is a GIFT (Ephesians 2:8-9 MSG)

- Is your present life a living letter of who GOD, through JESUS, his SON?

- Has GOD entered your life?