

letters

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18
OUR COVENANT WITH GOD
MARCH 1, 2020

TWO COVENANTS

Old Covenant (*Exodus 19-40; 24:1-8*)

Mosaic Covenant

Between God and the nation of Israel

Obedience and Blessing

New Covenant (*Matt. 26-28; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*)

Between God and Anyone who will Receive

Forgiveness and Restoration

A PERSONAL, LIFE-GIVING COVENANT (3:1-6)

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 4 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

	OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
Where	Stone	
With	Ink	God's Spirit
Style	Letter - Rules	Spirit - Values
Consequence	Death	Life

What has God been writing on my heart? How does it help me experience real life?

A GLORIOUS COVENANT (3:7-11; EXODUS 34:27-35)

7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! 2 Cor. 3:7-11

	OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
Environment	Glory	More Glorious
Brings	Condemnation	
Duration	Transitory	Continues

How does it shape your thinking knowing that you can have God's righteousness assigned to you?

21 God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

A TRANSFORMATIONAL COVENANT (3:12-17)

12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone 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 freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:12-17

	OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
Communication	Veiled	Candid
Understanding	Dull	Free

Verse 18

- **"unveiled"** – The work has been done and is complete. It was done to us not by us.
- **"contemplate the Lord's glory"** – This is currently going on and is being done mutually by us and by God.
- **"are being transformed"** – This is currently happening and is being done by God on our behalf.

How does an enduring hope produce freedom and confidence when you speak to others?

What about God's character captivates you? What needs to captivate you more?

God is Great	Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-8), Omnipotent (Psalm 62:11), Omniscient (Romans 11:33-34)
God is Good	Holy (Isaiah 6:1-5), Just (Psalm 11:7), Love (1 John 4:8-10), True (Romans 3:3-4)
God is Glorious	Immutable (James 1:17), Independent (Romans 11:35-36), Infallible (Zephaniah 3:5), Infinite (Job 11:7-9), Invisible (John 4:24)

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