



THE CHURCH OF THE
ADVENT

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Summary: This passage begs an important question – what is glory, and what does it mean to behold and be transformed by it (v. 18)? With the Israelites’ experience at Mount Sinai in the back of his mind (Exod. 32-34) Paul compares his ministry with Moses. Paul demonstrates that Moses’ ministry of the old covenant was a ministry of death and condemnation, a covenant that was now passing away. Paul’s ministry, on the other hand, was a ministry of life and the Spirit eternally established by Christ (v. 7-11).

Paul goes on to confront us with the fact that many have veils over their hearts, veils that must be removed in order to fully know and be transformed by God (v. 12-16). God calls us to turn to him in complete existential surrender, to accept that on the Cross he removed every barrier separating us from him. We confront our inescapable brokenness and confess the numerous ways we’ve spurned his love. We behold the paradoxical glory of Christ crucified, humiliated and yet triumphant. We receive Christ’s righteousness as a gift and become united to him in his death and resurrection. The Spirit empowers us to walk in obedience to his new covenant and slowly transforms us into the image of our crucified Lord, high and lifted up, to see glory and victory in his loving sacrifice.

- Questions:**
1. Discuss the background Pastor Dan raised from Exodus 32-34. How does this passage shape how we understand what Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians 3? How is the veil over Moses’ face both an act of mercy and judgement?
 2. How is the new covenant ushered in by Jesus different from the old covenant that Moses presided over? How had ancient Israel separated itself from God’s glory? How are we now able to obey the new covenant and seek God’s face?
 3. What does our turn to God entail? What does it mean to unveil our hearts and not just our minds? If you are not a believer, what keeps you from turning to the Lord, from surrendering your whole self to him?
 4. Pastor Dan quotes Charles Spurgeon, who said “Christ puts his crucifixion as being his glory.” How does the Cross transform our understanding of glory and triumph?
 5. What does it mean for our lives to be transformed in the image of our crucified Savior? How true is 2 Corinthians 3:18 of your life?

Prayer: Meditate on the glory of the Cross, on the victory Christ accomplished on our behalf, and the gift of righteousness we receive from him through faith. Give thanks for what God has done for you and ask him how you may seek his face in the days ahead.

Do: Examine your life. Quiet yourself in prayer and clear your mind. Recount the events of your day or week. Pay close attention to 1) where you felt a sense of joy, peace, and recognition of the Spirit's work and 2) where you failed to recognize or obey the Spirit. Confess where you failed and give thanks to God for the transformation he is working in your heart.