

**God's Marvelous Mirror (Second Secret)**

*Water of Life*: Dr. John Niemelä | Guide to Zane Hodges, *Six Secrets of the Christian Life* | 19 Feb 2015

**Review of Chapter 1, "How?":**

Believers are alive to God, but we cannot will our dead body (flesh) into pleasing God (10-13)

The Spirit of resurrection: Living by God's power of resurrection (13-16)

The basis for the chapter is Romans 7-8, which we covered last week.

**God's Marvelous Mirror: 2 Corinthians 3 (commentary on Exodus 34) is background for this chapter.**

**BASIC OUTLINE OF EXODUS:**

- I. God Redeems Israel from Egypt (1-18)
- II. First Revelation of the Mosaic Covenant (Law) to Israel through Moses on Mt. Sinai (19-31)
- III. Israel's Failure and God's Renewal of the Mosaic Covenant (Law) with Israel (32-34)**
  - A. Israel's Failure (Making the Golden Calf while Moses Was on Mt. Sinai) (32:1-33:6)
  - B. God Renewal of the Mosaic Covenant (Law) with Israel (33:7-34:35)**
    - 1. Though Estranged from Israel, God Met with Moses as with a Friend (33:7-11)
    - 2. God Promised to Reveal [Partially] His Glory to Moses (33:12-23)
    - 4. God Showed Himself to Moses, who Confessed Israel's Rebellion (34:1-9)
    - 5. God Renewed the Covenant, Repeating the Ten Commandments (34:10-28)
    - 6. Moses' Shining Face Scared Israel; He Veiled His Face before Them (34:29-35)**
- IV. Building the Tabernacle [Giving Restored Israel Access to a Holy God] (35-40)

*FURTHER BACKGROUND: ISRAEL'S COVENANTS*

	<b>Abrahamic (Genesis 12ff)</b>		
	<i>Land, Seed, Blessing</i>		
Unconditional	<b>Land (Deuteronomy 28-30)</b>	<b>Davidic (2 Samuel 7)</b>	<b>New (Jeremiah 31)</b>
	<i>Land</i>	<i>Seed</i>	<i>Blessing</i>
Conditional	<b>Mosaic (Exodus 19ff)</b>		
	<i>Conduct Rules</i>		

**Exposition of Exodus 34:29-35**

**Moses Did Not Realize that His Face Shone as He Came Down from Sinai (34:29)**

**His Shining Face Caused Israel to Fear to Approach Him, but Calling Them, He Gave Them the Commandments God Had Spoken (34:30-32)**

**After Finishing Speaking to Israel [This First Time], Moses Veiled His Face (34:33)**  
 Note that Moses spoke once with an unveiled shining face (34:33)

**Subsequently, Moses Met God Unveiled, but Met Israel with a Veil (34:34-35)**

**BASIC OUTLINE OF 2 CORINTHIANS:**

I. Paul's Salutation and Thanksgiving	(1:3-11)
<b>II. Defense of Paul's Apostleship</b>	<b>(1:12-7:16)</b>
A. Justifying Paul's Changed Travel Plans & Restoring the Repentant Offender	(1:12-2:11)
B. Paul Triumphs in Christ Despite Setbacks and Concerns [over Titus]	(2:12-17)
<b>C. Corinthians Are Sufficient Commendation Letters for Paul, Penned by HS</b>	<b>(3:1-3)</b>
<b>D. Paul Ministers God's Glory as Revealed in the Life-Giving New Covenant, Not the Veiled Glory of the Life-Killing Old Covenant [Law]</b>	<b>(3:4-18)</b>
<b>E. Paul Ministers with Integrity Despite Human Limits; HS Must Remove Veil</b>	<b>(4:1-15)</b>
F. Paul Does Not Lose Heart, because of Focusing on Resurrection & <i>Bēma</i>	(4:16-5:11)
G. Thus, Paul's Ministry Is One of Reconciliation to God (Through Faith)	(5:12-21)
H. Paul Bears the Marks of New Covenant Ministry [as Commendation Letter]	(6:1-10)
I. In Response, They Should Become Holy; He Joyfully Anticipates Repentance	(6:11-7:16)
III. Grace Giving on behalf of Needy Jerusalem Saints	(8:1-9:15)
IV. Urging Accept Paul's Apostolic Authority & Reject False Apostles	(10:1-13:10)
V. Summary Instructions, Salutation, and Benediction	(13:11-14)

**The Corinthians Are Sufficient Commendation Letters for Paul, Penned by HS on Hearts (3:1-3)**

[Law-focused] false-apostles claimed Paul couldn't match their commendation letters.

Paul says, What God did in their lives through his ministry can't be matched by the objectors.

*Note his focus on letters written on human hearts by the Spirit, not on stone tablets.*

**The Corinthians Are Sufficient Commendation Letters for Paul, Penned by HS on Hearts (3:1-3)**

**Paul's Sufficiency in Ministering the New Covenant by the Life-Giving Spirit Is from God (3:4-6)**

**The Glory of the Ministry of Righteousness (the ratified New Covenant) Exceeds the Passing Glory of the Ministry of Death (the Mosaic Covenant) (3:7-11)**

Hebrews 7:22 speaks of Jesus as surety for the New Covenant. Without going into the technical issues, God views the New Covenant as ratified, but it will not be enacted until the Millennium. Specifically, Jeremiah 31:31ff says that it will be enacted with Israel and Judah (not with Gentiles), so it cannot be enacted with the church. We enjoy benefits, because God is free to offer some of what He has ratified—though Israel and Judah will enjoy all of its provisions.

**[Based on the superiority of the ratified New Covenant] Paul speaks boldly [without a veil], whereas Moses spoke with a veil, because the fading glory (in which his face shone) disturbed Israel (3:12-13)**  
Moses fading glory foreshadowed the temporary nature of the Law itself that Paul emphasizes

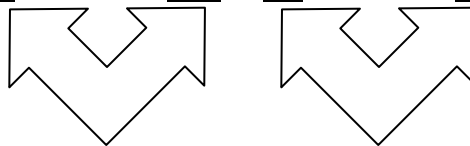
**Even in Moses' day Israel was blinded to God's glory as Moses veiled his face (3:14a)**

**Today, Israel's preoccupation with the Law means that they only see God's glory through a veil as they read the Law, because focusing on Christ is the only way to remove that veil (3:14b-16)**  
Recall Exodus 34:34 Moses met God without a veil, but met Israel with a veil

**The Spirit is Lord and where the Spirit is, there is liberty (3:17)**

I disagree with English translations that render this as: The Lord is the Spirit.

The Greek reads: *Ho de Kurios to Pneuma estin.*  
the Now Lord the Spirit is.



That can either mean: Now the Lord is the Spirit or Now the Spirit is the Lord.

Why? In a predicate-nominative sentence, the subject will have the word *the*. When both nouns have a *the* (as here), either can be the subject. I believe that Paul is saying that the Holy Spirit is the Lord (that is, the Holy Spirit is God).

Remember John 1:1: The Word was with God and the Word was God.  
Solomon was Israel's king and was with Israel's king (David).  
David was Israel's king and was with Israel's king (Solomon).

Jesus Christ is God and is with God (the Father)  
The Father is God and is with God (the Son).

Paul here affirms the deity of the Holy Spirit.  
Now the Spirit is the Lord (God).

What is Paul's point? The Holy Spirit liberates, the Law enslaves to death.

**Believers who behold (as in a mirror) the glory of the Lord are being transformed (by the Holy Spirit) into the same increasingly glorious image of Christ (3:18)**

**Paul Ministers with Integrity Despite Human Limits; HS Must Remove Veil (4:1-15)**  
**Paul does not lose heart despite setbacks, because of having received this mercy [the transformative benefits from the Holy Spirit under the ratified New Covenant] (4:1)**

**Paul renounces the shameful trickery of the false prophets, commending himself to every man's conscience in God's sight (4:2)**

**Paul's gospel is only veiled to those whose eyes Satan has blinded through veiling (in order to prevent Christ's glory from shining through to them) (4:3-4)**

Specifically, Paul is looking at Satan using the Law to veil people's minds, but Satan can use other veils.

What does Paul suggest would happen, if Satan were not veiling people's minds?  
*LEST the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ... should shine on them*

What does *lest* mean?

In addition, the world and the flesh offer their own veils.

How do we know that this is: *the god of this age?* Why not *the GOD of this age?*  
When God blinds, He does so by....

When Satan blinds, he does so by...

**Paul does not proclaim himself (as false apostles proclaim themselves), but He proclaims Christ (4:5)**

**God who commanded light to shine out of darkness can turn up the rheostat for unbelievers (4:6)**