

Living Letters
Lesson #3
2 Corinthians 3

False teachers had come into the church at Corinth and were preaching against Paul. Paul countered these attacks with, *"Unlike so many, we do not peddle the Word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God."* 2 Corinthians 2:17

Living Letters - 2 Corinthians 3:1-6a

1. What two questions did Paul ask? (2 Corinthians 3:1)
 - From those questions, what do you think Paul was being accused of?
2. What did Paul say was his "letter?" (2 Corinthians 3:2)
3. Using 2 Corinthians 3:3, look at Paul's defense of his ministry.
 - Who did Paul say wrote this "letter?"
 - If it was not written with ink, then what was this "letter" written with?
 - If not written on stone tablets, where was this letter written?
4. From what source did Paul gain his confidence? (2 Corinthians 3:4)
5. After denying any competence in himself or his abilities, where did he state his competence came from? (2 Corinthians 3:5, 6a)

Paul will often use the word "minister" and "ministry" throughout this letter which is best understood to mean "servant" and "service" as it is not an office but a function.

6. Think about what Paul just said regarding his competence. Do you think that applies to all believers today or just a few during biblical times?

Old vs. New Covenant - 2 Corinthians 3:6b-12

7. In his description of the Old and New Covenants, Paul referred to the Old Covenant as the "letter," as in "the letter of the Law." What did Paul say the "letter" does?
2 Corinthians 3:6b

- What does the Spirit give?

8. In his comparison of the two covenants, Paul referred to Moses and the glory of God. (This story is found in Exodus 33 and 34.) Moses had asked the Lord, "*Now show me Your glory.*" (Exodus 33:18) The Lord said He would do so, but what warning did God give to Moses about His request? (Exodus 33:20)

9. How did God fulfill Moses' request? (Exodus 33:22, 23)

10. Moses was then commanded to chisel out two stone tablets and to meet God on Mount Sinai the following morning. (Exodus 34:1-4) Moses obeyed God.

- What is recorded about that encounter with God? (Exodus 34:5, 6a)

- What did Moses do? (Exodus 34:8)

11. What did God say that He was doing on that day? (Exodus 34:10)

12. As a result of this encounter with God, what happened to Moses? (Exodus 34:29)

13. What was the reaction of the people to Moses? (Exodus 34:30)

- What was Moses' solution to this problem? (Exodus 34:33-35)

14. With the background of the Old Covenant in mind, what was Paul's comparison with the New Covenant (which is Christ Jesus)? (2 Corinthians 3:7, 8)

15. Fill in the blanks below comparing the ministry of the old and the new covenants.

Old Covenant

New Covenant

_____ Men Brings _____ (2 Corinthians 3:9)

Its glory was _____ The glory _____ (2 Corinthians 3:11)

16. Paul said that fact brought him great hope. What else did it do? (2 Corinthians 3:12)

17. How did Paul say the ministry of the New Covenant was different from that of Moses? (2 Corinthians 3:13)

18. Paul said the minds of the Israelites were dull and that the same veil remains with the Old Covenant. How is that veil removed? (2 Corinthians 3:14)

19. What was Paul's additional comment about the reading of the words of Moses (Old Covenant) even in his day? (2 Corinthians 3:15)

20. What must be done to change that? (2 Corinthians 3:16)

21. At the beginning of this chapter, Paul said that the New Covenant is written *"not with ink but the Spirit of the living God."* (2 Corinthians 3:3) Using 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18:

- What does the Spirit of the Lord bring?
- Who is to be reflected on the face of those who are "unveiled?"
- What transformation should be taking place in the "unveiled" life?
- Who is at work to bring about that transformation?