

2 Corinthians 3

Chapter 3 of 13 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Ministers of the New Covenant

- ¹ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?
- ² Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:
- ³ Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.
- ⁴ And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:
- ⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;
- ⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- ⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:
- ⁸ How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?
- ⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.
- ¹⁰ For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

The Glory of the New Covenant

12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Glory — δόξα (Doxa)

Glory, majesty, splendor

The Greek **doxa** (δόξα) means glory, splendor, or magnificence—the radiant manifestation of God's perfection. Christ revealed the Father's glory: 'we beheld his glory' (John 1:14).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Hope — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaos** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 3:1

Parallel theme: 2 Corinthians 2:17; 5:12; 10:12; 12:11; 12:19; Acts 18:27; 1 Corinthians 3:10; 4:15; 10:33; 16:3

2 Corinthians 3:2 **Parallel theme:** Romans 1:8; Philippians 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:8

2 Corinthians 3:3

Spirit: Ezekiel 11:19; Hebrews 9:14. **References God:** 2 Corinthians 6:16; Exodus 31:18; Psalms 40:8; Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 24:12; Proverbs 3:3; Hebrews 10:16

2 Corinthians 3:4 **Faith:** Ephesians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:8. **References Christ:** 2 Corinthians 2:14; Philippians 1:6. **References God:** Exodus 18:19

2 Corinthians 3:5 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 12:9; Luke 21:15; John 15:5; Philippians 4:13; James 1:17. **References God:** 2 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 3:6; 3:10; 15:10; Philippians 2:13

2 Corinthians 3:6 **Spirit:** John 6:63; Romans 7:6; 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:45. **Covenant:** 2 Corinthians 3:14; Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 7:22; 12:24; 13:20. **Parallel theme:** Romans 3:20

2 Corinthians 3:7

References Moses: Exodus 24:12; 31:18. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 3:3; 3:6; Psalms 119:97; 119:174; Acts 6:15; Romans 4:15; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 13:10

2 Corinthians 3:8 Spirit: Isaiah 11:2; 44:3; 59:21; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2. **Parallel theme:** John 1:17

2 Corinthians 3:9 Righteousness: 2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Corinthians 3:11 Parallel theme: Hebrews 8:13

2 Corinthians 3:12 Parallel theme: 2 Corinthians 7:4; John 16:29; Acts 4:13. **Hope:** Philippians 1:20

2 Corinthians 3:13

References Moses: 2 Corinthians 3:7. **Parallel theme:** Colossians 2:17

2 Corinthians 3:14

Parallel theme: Isaiah 44:18; Jeremiah 5:21; Matthew 13:11; 16:17; John 12:40; Acts 13:15; 16:14; 26:18; Romans 11:25. **References Christ:** 2 Corinthians 4:6

2 Corinthians 3:16

References Lord: Exodus 34:34; Deuteronomy 4:30; 30:10; Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 31:34; Lamentations 3:40. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 25:7; 29:18; Romans 11:23

2 Corinthians 3:17 Spirit: 2 Corinthians 3:6; Psalms 51:12; John 6:63; Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:45; Galatians 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:7. **Parallel theme:** John 8:32; Galatians 5:1; 5:13

2 Corinthians 3:18 Glory: 2 Corinthians 4:4; 4:6; John 1:14; 17:24. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29; 12:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 15:49; Colossians 3:10