

2 Corinthians 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Paul presents his third contrast: the **done away** (Greek to katargoumenon, τὸ καταργούμενον, "being abolished" or "fading") versus **that which remaineth** (Greek to menon, τὸ μένον, "abiding" or "permanent"). The old covenant was never designed to be permanent; it was a temporary administration pointing forward to Christ (Galatians 3:19-25). The verb katargeō (καταργέω) appears six times in 2 Corinthians 3, emphasizing the old covenant's obsolescence now that Christ has come.

By contrast, the new covenant **remaineth**—the present participle menon (μένον) indicates continuous, permanent existence. This echoes Jesus' words that His words "shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35) and John's declaration that "he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:17). The new covenant will never be superseded because it rests on Christ's finished work and the Spirit's eternal presence. Its glory is permanent, not fading. The argument is again qal wahomer: if the temporary had glory, **much more** (Greek mallon, μᾶλλον) the permanent is glorious.

Historical Context

The concept that the Mosaic covenant would one day be "done away" was radical but biblically grounded. Jeremiah 31:31-32 explicitly contrasts the "new covenant" with the covenant God made with Israel at the Exodus, implying the old would

become obsolete. Hebrews 8:13 makes this explicit: "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Paul's teaching aligned with Jesus' declaration that He came to "fulfill" (complete and bring to fruition) the law and prophets (Matthew 5:17).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that the new covenant is permanent—never to be replaced—give you security and confidence in your relationship with God?
2. In what ways might you be clinging to temporary, "fading" religious practices or rules instead of embracing the permanent reality of life in the Spirit?
3. What difference does it make to your daily life that the glory you possess in Christ will never fade or be taken away?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	γὰρ	τὸ	καταργούμενον	διὰ	δόξης	πολλῷ
if	For	G3588	that which is done away	was glorious	G1391	much
G1487	G1063		G2673	G1223		G4183
μᾶλλον	τὸ	μένον	ἐν	δόξῃ		
more	G3588	that which remaineth	is glorious	G1391		
G3123		G3306	G1722			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 8:13 (Parallel theme): In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

