

2 Corinthians 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

Paul emphasizes the tragic present reality: **when Moses is read** (Greek *hēnika anaginōskētai Mōusēs*, ἡνίκα ἀναγινώσκηται Μωϋσῆς)—that is, when the Torah is read in synagogue worship—**the veil is upon their heart** (Greek *kalymma epi tēn kardian autōn keitai*, κάλυμμα ἐπὶ τὴν καρδίαν αὐτῶν κεῖται). The veil is no longer physical but spiritual; it covers not Moses' face but Israel's heart.

The shift from "minds" (verse 14) to **heart** (*kardia*, καρδία) is significant. Biblical "heart" includes intellect, will, and affections—the whole inner person. The veil is not merely intellectual confusion but willful blindness, a hardness of heart that prevents spiritual perception. This echoes Isaiah 6:9-10, quoted by Jesus to explain Israel's unbelief (Matthew 13:14-15; John 12:40). Yet Paul's tone is not triumphalistic but sorrowful—he mourns his kinsmen's blindness (Romans 9:1-3; 10:1) and anticipates future restoration (Romans 11:25-27).

Historical Context

First-century synagogue worship centered on public reading and exposition of the Torah (the Five Books of Moses), Prophets, and Writings. Jesus participated in this custom (Luke 4:16-21), as did Paul (Acts 13:14-15). However, rabbinic interpretation (later codified in the Talmud) developed complex hermeneutical methods that often obscured rather than revealed the Christological meaning of texts. Paul argues that apart from the Spirit's illumination, even the most diligent

study of Moses leaves the heart veiled. The solution is not better exegesis but spiritual regeneration.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse warn against reading Scripture academically or religiously without spiritual illumination by the Spirit?
2. In what ways might your own heart still be "veiled" when reading certain biblical texts or doctrines?
3. How can you cultivate heart-level receptivity to Scripture, not merely intellectual study?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ'	ἕως	σήμερον	ἡνίκα	ἀναγινώσκεται	Μωσῆς,
But	even	unto this day	when	is read	Moses
G235	G2193	G4594	G2259	G314	G3475

κάλυμμα	ἐπὶ	τὴν	καρδίαν	αὐτῶν	κεῖται·
the veil			heart	their	is upon
G2571	G1909	G3588	G2588	G846	G2749