

Homework #5 - *Changed by the Light of Jesus' Face*

II Corinthians 3:7-4:6

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

--II Corinthians 3:18

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 3:7-4:6. What are the key words in this passage?

Contrasts in Corinthians: Write the contrasts between the ministries of:
The Old Covenant and The New Covenant

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

2. Read Exodus 19:4-8. What do you think the word "covenant" means?
3. Read about how the old covenant was given in Exodus 19:16-19 and 24:15-17. How was God's *presence* revealed to the people?

Read Exodus 24:12. How was God's *will* revealed to the people under the old covenant?

4. Read John 14:15-17a, 25-26 and II Corinthians 3:8, 17. How does God reveal His *presence* and His *will* to us under the new covenant?
5. How does II Corinthians 3:11 describe the new covenant?
6. Read Hebrews 12:18-29. What should be our response to God's new covenant in Christ, according to verse 28?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Read Ephesians 2:8,9. Are there ways in your life that you are relying on the Old Covenant by earning God's favor instead of the New Covenant of trust in Christ and relying on His Spirit?

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How does this comparison of the old and new covenants help you appreciate God's gift of life through Jesus? Spend time thanking and worshipping God in "reverence and awe" for His new covenant!

Day Two

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read Exodus 34:29-35. What happened to Moses' face, and why, in verse 29?

How did others initially respond to this change, in verse 30?

How did Moses look when he communicated the law in verses 31-32, 35 and II Corinthians 3:7?

What did Moses do after he spoke to the people in verses 33 & 35?

What did Moses do when he spoke with God, in verse 34?

2. According to II Corinthians 3:13, why did Moses wear a veil after he spoke to the people?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What parallel does Paul make between the fading glow on Moses' face and the old covenant? (3:11)
4. What is the basic purpose of a veil?
5. How does Paul describe those who still cling to the old covenant? (II Corinthians 3:14-15)

Why do you think having a "dull" mind is like wearing a veil?

6. What is to be our personal response to God's unchanging promise in verses 12-13, and 18a?

7. Read Hebrews 10:19-23. What encouragement is given in verse 22?

Why? (Verse 23)

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Do you ever wear a veil of sorts before God or others, to conceal your less than perfect "face"? How does today's study encourage you to come just as you are? How can you be more transparent before God?

Day Three

Observe: What does the passage say?

The important background for the following event is that the Israelites had just made a golden calf to worship after their recent exodus from Egypt. They thought God had abandoned them while Moses was on the mountain receiving the original stone tablets of the 10 Commandments. To read Moses' reaction as he came down the mountain, see Exodus 32:19-20.

1. Read Exodus 33:7-11. How is Moses' regular time with God described in verse 11?
3. Read Exodus 33:12-18. What does Moses request from God for the people after their disobedience? What is Moses' plea for himself?

Read Exodus 33:19-20. What does the Lord answer Moses? What will Moses be unable to see?

4. Read Exodus 33:21-23 and 34:5-7. Describe God's arrangement for revealing His glory to Moses in 33:21-23:

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. Read Isaiah 60:1-2; Ezekiel 1:28. How would you describe God's glory?
6. How does God describe Himself in Exodus 34:5-7?

Why is this important for Moses to know at this time in Israel's history?

7. For what does Jesus pray in John 17:1-5?

How did He glorify God by going to the cross? How is this a living example of how God described Himself? (See question 6)

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8. Write a definition of the word "transformed":

What will this transformation look like?

How are we transformed, according to II Corinthians 3:18?

Explain why focusing on yourself does not bring real change:

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Think of an area in your life in which you need "transformation". Has your focus been on yourself and your own problems? How can looking to Jesus for forgiveness and strength cause real change?

Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 4:1-5. How does Paul describe his ministry in verses 1, 2 and 5?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

2. What do you think it means to "lose heart"?

Why do we sometimes lose heart in serving others?

3. To whom is the gospel still veiled and why, in verses 3-4?

How is the gospel veiled in our culture? How are we blinded from seeing Christ today?

How does this insight help you to better pray for others?

4. Who is "the god of this age"? (See Acts 26:18 & Revelation 12:9.)

5. What do you think it means to "distort the Word of God"?

Why do you think a leader would intentionally "distort the Word of God"?

What do you think it means to use "deception" in leading others?

6. Explain how our open relationship with God through Christ also allows us to be honest and open with others:

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Do you ever feel the need to use manipulation to get your own way? Is it especially in times when you have "lost heart" or feel you cannot win otherwise? How do Paul's words encourage you to be transparent and honest before God and other people?

Day Five

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read Genesis 1:26-27. Describe God's original design for human beings. What did we look like?

What has happened to the human race, according to Romans 3:23?

2. How do these passages describe Jesus:

--Colossians 1:15

--Hebrews 1:3a

How does II Corinthians 4:4c describe Jesus?

3. Jumping ahead to II Corinthians 5:17, what are believers in Christ called?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Read the creation account in Genesis 1:1-5. What parallel does Paul draw from the beginning of creation to the new creation of every believer's life in Christ?

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What is the "light" of God's new creation in people? (2 Corinthians 4:6)

5. What do you think it means to reflect the Lord's glory?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. In this passage, Paul eloquently describes God's ability to change a human life. *How can you discover your true face and become who God designed you to be?* Reflect on this week's lesson in your personal response: