



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
March 1, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read the passage out loud together. What stands out to you as Paul describes the old and new?
2. Notice the word 'glory' in vss 7-12 and the word 'veil' in vss. 12-18. They are repeated often and so they have special importance to what Paul is getting at. Why are those words unifying themes to what he is getting at here?
3. Why did Moses wear a veil? What does Paul say it represents? When and how is the veil removed?
4. What is the 'hope' in verse 12? What does that hope produce? How is it gained?
5. In vss. 17-18, the Spirit is talked about. Who is the Spirit identified as? What does he produce?
6. What are believers doing in vs. 18? What is being done to them? Who is responsible for this transformation going on?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

7. If the Law is good and glorious, why does Paul use the terms he does for it (ministry of death, condemnation)?
8. Why would Christians in Corinth be tempted to return to the old way?
9. What does it mean that the old covenant was "being brought to an end" (vss. 7,11,13)?
10. What is the difference between justification (v.16) and sanctification (v.18)? Why is this so vital to your life in Christ?
11. What does it mean practically to "behold the glory of the Lord"?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

12. In what ways am I tempted to return to the "old" way of relating to God? (equating performance with closeness; focusing on rules; comparing; outward)
13. Where do I need to 'turn to the Lord' this week? (sin to repent of; mindset to change; self-reliance to surrender)
14. My hope produces boldness in me. How can my 'beholding' (v.18) help cultivate more of this? What am I supposed to do when when I'm not bold?
15. As a Christian, I have a ministry and I am capable! Review where this ministry comes from (2 Cor. 4:1); that it is new not old (v.6); what it produces (v. 12 and 18) and how it is accomplished (v.18). Now marvel, give thanks and do not lose heart as you walk in this new life.