

Before we get started...

- If you missed last week, Dr Bob Reccord taught the combined lesson on ...



- Our room has been busy this week (thanks Tina Brown)





2 Corinthians Ch 4

June 23, 2024

Module 5, Room 1



Class Schedule for the next few weeks

✓ *June 9, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 3*

✓ *June 16, 2024 – Group Meeting in Banquet Hall – Dr. Bob Reccord teaching*

✓ *June 23, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 4*

✓ *June 30, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 5, Celebration on the grounds*

• *July 7, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 6*

• *July 14, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 7*

• *July 21, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 8*

• *July 28, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 9*

Quick Update .../CYMI

Middle East

- *I sent out a comprehensive video. Watch that for more a wide-spread update*
- *Israel is fighting back against increasing Hezbollah attacks in the North including in Galilee*
- *Deep penetration attacks in Lebanon and a warning to Lebanon to get Hezbollah north of the Litani River away from the Israel border...or else.*
- *Iran is increasing its nuclear readiness for a weapons-grade nuclear warhead*

US/World

- *Antisemitism is still rampant, and demonstrations are getting more violent in both the US and Europe...paintings, Stonehenge, monuments...even at US Senators Homes...*
- *China is building a facility in Cuba, and Russian warships are doing joint exercises with Cuba. China, Russia, and Iran are making alliances with Venezuela for beachheads there*
- *The MSM is not telling you about the Chinese and Russian Threats. Russia has elevated threats to US interests because of offensive US weapons in Ukraine. Ukraine is getting messier and more volatile. France is considering putting soldiers in Ukraine...a red line for sure.*
- *Big Argument about PM Netanyahu addressing a joint session of Congress on July 24th*
- *Election rhetoric and debate getting hotter, Conventions may hold surprises*

Remember: Israel is God's timepiece for the End Times: Israel is the Hour Hand, Jerusalem is the Minute Hand, and the Temple Mount is the Second Hand

Last Week...

- *We studied 2 Cor Ch 3 but did not finish*
 - *I had a power failure on my computer and lost both the audio and video recordings of the class. I will re-record it from home and post it.*
 - *It mostly affected the Zoom users who could not hear anything after the power went off.*
- *There were two basic thoughts we discussed in Ch 3*
 - *The characteristics of a **competent minister** of the Gospel*
 - *The heresy that was following Paul in all his churches*
 - *Circumcision – **Ceremonialism as a requirement***
- *I want to cover them quickly and then get to Chapter 4*

2 Cor Ch 3:1-6 Competency of a Minister

- *Reputation for Godliness – verse 1*
- *Letters of commendation – Do they need second-hand letters after 2 years of being pastored by Paul? They are the letters that validate his ministry, not some 2nd hand letter. Each of the Corinthians, indeed each of us who claims Christ as Savior, are letters of introduction to others, not from other believers, BUT FROM CHRIST HIMSELF. Not formal letters, but letters written on our hearts, not on tablets of stone. This is an important point, both for the believers in Corinth, and for us today.*
- *Paul has had an impact on the Corinthians. Paul's reputation for competency, a **transforming ministry** is demonstrated not read in a letter. (Verses 2-4)*
- *A competent minister **has confidence** in his own ministry and calling. (Verse 4) Not that we don't have doubts occasionally, but ministers are simple clay pots. Their importance is the message they carry, not they themselves. Note that this confidence is not self-confidence, but confidence in the mission and calling of God.*
- *A Competent Minister has great dependency on the power of God and the ministry of the Spirit*
- *A competent Minister preaches the message of the **New Covenant***

Heresies that plagued the church in first Century

- *We talked about the heresies written about in 1,2,3rd John*
 - ***Gnosticism, and Docetism***
- *In Paul's ministry, the heresy that dogged him was the **Judaizers** who demanded that Christians become Jews first and follow the Law. **Party of the circumcision***
- *In almost every new church, when Paul moved on, these traveling Judaizers tried to minimize Paul's calling and his adequacy to be a minister because he was adamant about believers not having to follow the Jewish Law.*
- *This was sowing discord and heresy in these immature Churches and immature believers undoing all of Paul's efforts.*
- ***This is the situation in Corinth at this time.***

2 Cor Ch 3:7-11 The New Covenant vs Old Covenant

*⁷ Now **if the ministry** that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was,*

*⁸ **will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?***

*⁹ **If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!***

*¹⁰ For what **was glorious** has no glory now **in comparison with the surpassing glory.***

*¹¹ **And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!***

If the Old Covenant has Glory, How much more is the New Covenant?

You might ask “So What?” There are no Judiazers now

- ***Heresies don't die away; they morph into something that looks different but is not different***
- ***It is really a battle against ceremonialism. It is still very prevalent in the Christian Faith Spectrum today***
 - *Hebrew Roots Movement tries to insert many ceremonial Jewish laws into the Christian Faith as a way to deepen our faith. This is a dangerous type of activity because we are susceptible to gravitating to ritual and not genuine worship*
 - *This was the reason for the Reformation, but ceremonialism coming from ancient pagan roots is embedded in **Catholic, Orthodox, and many High Church Protestantism traditions**. Not to mention cult variants*
 - ***I am NOT SAYING THEY ARE NOT CHRISTIAN...**But for many of us, their focus is on liturgy and not worship. They focus on form and not Biblical understanding.*

John MacArthur in his sermon on 2 Cor Ch 3

Says that this battle against ceremonialism has been a long struggle.

*“In fact, it was that very battle that led to the Reformation – when true evangelicalism separated itself from ceremonialism, ritualism, sacerdotalism – or sacramentalism as it is called, mechanical Christianity, **where the church becomes a surrogate Christ to which you are attached by means of external ceremony, ritual, sacrament, priestly function.***

The church becomes a surrogate Christ displacing the true Christ, and people have a connection to the church through mechanical means rather than a connection to the living God through Christ, and many of you understand this.”

In this letter, Paul is not aware of the church today, but the heresy is the same as it was back then, only in modern form

What is this New Covenant?

Matt 26: 27-29

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

*28 This is my blood of the **new covenant**, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins**.*

*29 I tell you; I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom**.*

*Jesus is saying the new covenant was based on HIS blood, not the blood of sacrificial animals or ritualistic ceremony, and its purpose is **the forgiveness of sin. Not temporary absolution like the Old Covenant, but permanent absolution**. In this statement, we see the new covenant is a better covenant, and has better outcomes for us and all who will accept Him as Savior and Lord.*

2 Cor Ch 3:12-16 *The Veil that Hides the Truth*

12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.

14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because **only in Christ is it taken away.**

15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Cor Ch 3:17-18 A Greater Glory

*¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.***

*¹⁸ And we all, who with **unveiled faces contemplate (reflect)** the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

As we live and walk in the Spirit, we see the fullness of both the Old Covenant and New Covenant because we are unveiled, gaining in likeness to His Image, and increasing in Glory.

Amen and Amen

Q- Do we reflect the Lord's Glory?

2 Cor Ch 4:1-3 The Blinded Eye

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

2 Cor Ch 4:4-6. The Light of God

⁴ *The **god of this age** has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

⁵ *For **what we preach** is not ourselves, but **Jesus Christ as Lord**, and ourselves as your servants **for Jesus' sake**.*

⁶ *For God, who said, "**Let light shine out of darkness**,"** made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

**Gen 1:3

The Four People that Paul addresses

1. **Himself** – he never loses heart in the great task before him because...
 - a) He knows the great task before him. Each task of God brings its own strength with it (Handel's Messiah...22 days)
 - b) Paul's memory of the Mercy extended to him by Jesus. His whole life he was driven to return the Love and Mercy given to him by the Lord.
2. By implication, **his detractors and opposition** – who claimed Paul used underhanded methods, and devious cleverness to get his way, and that he corrupted or altered the message of the Gospel. When we are slandered, misunderstood, or our words twisted, it is comforting to know it also happened to Paul
3. **Those who have refused the Gospel**. They are blinded by the Lord because Paul has presented the gospel rightly and with the right motives
4. Finally, it says something about **Jesus**. In Jesus Christ, we see what God is like. Look at Jesus and see the Glory of God

2 Cor Ch 4:7-9 Tribulation in Life

*⁷ But we have **this treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Our bodies are like clay jars, fragile and worth little, except that in them, we carry the Light and Glory of God. We can be buffeted severely but we will survive.

2 Cor Ch 4:10-12 Paradox of Life in Christ

¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Life has surrounded us with weakness and hardship, but Christ has surrounded us with His Glory so that we never forget the dependence we have on Him. Paradox of weakness and Glory...intermingled in our lives.

If it's not one thing...it's another

2 Cor Ch 4:13-15 Tribulation, *now Triumph*

¹³ *It is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken.”** Since we have that same spirit of faith (Spirit-given faith), we also believe and therefore speak,*

¹⁴ *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.*

¹⁵ ***All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.***

*** Psalm 116:10 Septuagint*

2 Cor Ch 4:16-18 ...Words to Live by

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Next Week

- *Read 2 Cor Ch 5, and come back to discuss*
- *Pray for God to move in the US, Israel, and the leaders*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and your friends both inside and outside of the church. **Pray for healing for those in grief.***
- *Pray that Israel stays in God's will and does His Will*
- *Pray for families to be strengthened not divided as the world spins toward judgment*
- *Pray for those who don't know the Lord to come to Him*
- *Stay focused on Him and His desires in Faithfulness*