

2 Cor (end of 3 and) 4:1-6

The Glory of the Gospel

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Chapter Three: Paragraph Titles

The Boldness of Ministering/Living
in the New Covenant

3:1-3 Commendation “epistles”

3:4-6 Competence “adequacy”

3:7-18 Covenant “glory”

2



3



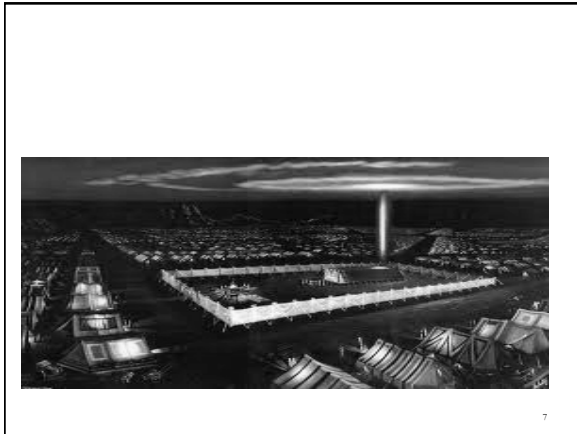
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Glory and the Holy Spirit

- References to the Third Person of the Trinity
 - 1:22
 - 2:13
 - 3:3,6,8,17,18**
 - 4:13
 - 5:5
 - 6:6
 - 7:1,13
 - 11:4 ; 12:18; 13:14

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Another Way of looking at the flow of the thought chaps 1-3

- 1. Sharing God's Comfort
- 2. Manifesting God's Faithfulness/Victory
- 3. Reflecting God's Glory

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3:4-18 – Competent Covenant Claims

Divine Covenants contrasted:

- Old Covenant :: New Covenant
- Letters of ink :: Letters of the Spirit
- Tablets of stone :: Tablets of the Heart
- Ministry of death :: Ministry of the Spirit
- Condemnation :: Righteousness
- Fading glory :: Surpassing, “skin deep” remaining glory

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“much more” of God

- Three “if...thens” vv. 7-11

Even more with v. 8

Abound with glory v. 9

Much more that remains is in glory v. 11

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The Face of Glory

“In the end that Face which is the delight or terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us either with one expression or with the other, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised.”

C.S. Lewis

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Chapter Titles

1. **Comfort**
 2. **Aroma**
 3. **Veiled Faces**
 4. **Tested Vessels**
 5. Compelling Love
 6. Trials and Temple
 7. Godly Sorrow
-
8. Call to Give
 9. Godlike Giving
 10. Proper Perceptions
 11. Apostle’s Defense
 12. Vision and Thorn
 13. Test Yourselves

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“Placing” ch. 4

- Chap. 1 Preparation – Implicit theology
Comfort through sincerity
- Chap. 2 Paul’s relationship with Corinth
Comfort through consistency
based upon victory
- Chap. 3 Corinth’s relationship with Paul
Commendation by transformation
- Chap. 4 Apostle’s basic stance:
The Glory of Christ outweighs all

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Larger Argument 2:14-17 to 7:4

Section lasts until 7:4 (at least)
A sustained defense of “pure” apostleship
 Chap 2 Triumph in Christ and Sincerity
 Chap 3 Ministers of the New Covenant
 Chap 4 The Motivation of Glory
 (Why the apostles do not give up)

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Recurrences

- “Ministry” terms: 1, manifestation of truth 2, gospel 3, 4, preach 5, manifested in flesh 11,
- Terms of ‘entropy’: lose heart 1, 16, perishing 3, blinded 4, afflicted etc. 8-10, death 12, decaying 16, affliction 17,

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Traces of past discussions

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2:14-17 | 4:1-6 |
| (17)Not peddling the Word | Not adulterating Word |
| (14)Manifests | Manifestation |
| (17)In the sight of God | In the sight of God |
| (15)Those perishing | Those perishing |
| (17)We speak | We preach |
| (14)The knowledge of Him | The knowledge of glory |

Answering and bringing charges against opponents

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Other similar themes

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 3:7-18 | 4:1-6 |
| (8)Ministry of the Spirit | This ministry |
| (13-16)Veiled | Veiled (2x) |
| (14) Hardened Minds | Blinded Minds |
| (7) Could not look | Kept from seeing |
| (13) Might not see | Might not see |
| (18) Reflecting | Give the Light |
| (7-11, 18) Glory | Glory (4-6) |

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Laws in the chapter

- 4:1 Therefore **CAUSATION**- pertains to the preceding chapter –
‘this ministry’ of glory vs. ‘min. of condemnation’
- **CONTRAST:**

2 NOT walking in craftiness	BUT manifesting truth
3-4 Blindness	5 Light of God’s glory
8 Afflicted	Not Crushed
10 We are Dying	That the Life of Jesus be manifested
16 Outer Decaying	BUT Inner renewed
18 Temporal Seen	BUT Eternal Unseen

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Manifesting Christ the Image of God 4:1-6

- vv. 1-2 Glory prompts openness
- vv. 3-4 Glory veiled to blinded minds
- vv. 5-6 Glory is known in the gospel of Jesus

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4:1

- *This ministry* –
- *Have* – burden or responsibility
- *Received mercy* – strong sense of grace,
- *Lose Heart* – lit. ‘behave badly, cowardly,
- What Paul/we offer exceeds that of Moses

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A different kind of glory

- 1:4 Comfort in **all affliction**
- 1:5 Sufferings of Christ are ours
- 1:6 But if we are afflicted – it is for your...
- 1:8 Burdened excessively/despairs of life
- 1:9 **Sentence of death**
- 1:10 Delivered us from death
- 2:4 Out of much (relational) affliction
- 2:13 No rest in my spirit
- 3:7-16 Dealing with hardening of hearts

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Paul's and our REAL HOPE

- 1:9 Trust is in God who raises the dead
- 1:10 He will deliver us from death
- 1:20 All the promises are Yes in Him
- 1:21-22 Trinitarian assurance
- 2:14 Always leads us in triumph
- 3:11 That which remains is in glory
- 3:12 Having therefore such a hope
- 3:17 Where the Spirit is, there is liberty

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4:2

- BUT – contrast to giving up
- Lit. “to speak forth or from” –renounce, disown
Hidden things of shame or secret ways of acting
- BUT – radical contrast to 3 preceding actions
- Setting forth the truth openly – open proclamation
- Commend to every single conscience in God's sight

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Chambers on Service

- We are the servants of men, says Paul, not primarily because their needs have arrested us, but because Jesus Christ is our Lord; not because we feel the clamant needs of our age or any such sounding timbrel, but that the Lord Jesus Christ has saved and sanctified us and now He is Lord of our lives and makes us unconsciously the servants of other men, not for their sakes but for His own.

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