

Ministers of a New Covenant

3:1 **ARE** we beginning to ^acommend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, ^bletters of commendation to you or from you? 2 ^aYou are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, ¹ ^acared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of ^bthe living God, not on ^ctablets of stone, but on ^dtablets of ² ^ehuman hearts. 4 And such ^aconfidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but ^aour adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate *as* ^aservants of a ^bnew covenant, not of ^cthe letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but ^dthe Spirit gives life. 7 But if the ^aministry of death, ^bin letters engraved on stones, came ¹with glory, ^cso that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading *as* it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if ^athe ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ^bministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses *it*. 11 For if that which fades away *was* ¹with glory, much more that which remains *is* in glory.

12 ^aHaving therefore such a hope, ^bwe use great boldness in *our* speech, 13 and *are* not as Moses, ^a*who* used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away. 14 But their minds were ^ahardened; for until this very day at the ^breading of ^cthe old covenant the same veil ¹remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 ^abut whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where ^athe Spirit of the Lord is, ^b*there* is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face ^abeholding as in a mirror the ^bglory of the Lord, are being ^ctransformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from ^dthe Lord, the Spirit.

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^a 2 Cor. 5:12; 10:12, 18; 12:11

^b Acts 18:27; 1 Cor. 16:3

^a 1 Cor. 9:2

¹ Lit., *served*

^a 2 Cor. 3:6

^b Matt. 16:16

^c Ex. 24:12; 31:18; 32:15f.; 2 Cor. 3:7

^d Prov. 3:3; 7:3; Jer. 17:1

² Lit., *hearts of flesh*

^e Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26

^a Eph. 3:12

^a 1 Cor. 15:10

^a 1 Cor. 3:5

^b Jer. 31:31; Luke 22:20

^c Rom. 2:29

^d John 6:63; Rom. 7:6

^a Rom. 4:15; 5:20; 7:5f.; 2 Cor. 3:9; Gal. 3:10, 21f.

^b Ex. 24:12; 31:18; 32:15f.; 2 Cor. 3:3

¹ Or, *in glory*

^c Ex. 34:29-35; 2 Cor. 3:13

^a Deut. 27:26; 2 Cor. 3:7; Heb. 12:18-21

^b Rom. 1:17; 3:21f.

¹ Lit., *through*

^a 2 Cor. 7:4

^b Acts 4:13, 29; 2 Cor. 7:4; Eph. 6:19; 1 Thess. 2:2

^a Ex. 34:33-35; 2 Cor. 3:7

^a Rom. 11:7; 2 Cor. 4:4

^b Acts 13:15

^c 2 Cor. 3:6

¹ Or, *remains, it not being revealed that it is done away in Christ.*

^a Ex. 34:34; Rom. 11:23

^a Is. 61:1f.; Gal. 4:6

^b John 8:32; Gal. 5:1, 13

^a 1 Cor. 13:12

^b John 17:22, 24; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6

^c Rom. 8:29

^d 2 Cor. 3:17

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.