

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for November 1, 2009**

**“The Greater Glory of Paul’s Ministry”**  
**2 Corinthians 3:9-11**

Paul, in order to highlight the greater glory of ministry of the new covenant in 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, provides us with three different comparisons between the new and the old covenants.

1. The ministry of death compared to the ministry of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:7-8)
2. The ministry of condemnation compared to the ministry of righteousness (2 Corinthians 3:9)

Paul wanted his readers to understand that those who had chosen to live under the Law had chosen death because the Law will condemn those who had chosen to live under it.

People choosing to live their lives under the new covenant, which is described by Paul as “the ministry of the Spirit” would be destroyed if the new covenant could not also be described as “the ministry of righteousness.”

The righteousness supplied to us through the new covenant that makes it possible for us to enjoy the ministry of the Spirit without being destroyed, is the imputed righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

3. The passing glory of the old covenant compared to the enduring glory of the new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:10-11)

When Paul referred to that which “had glory” he was referring to the old covenant.

When Paul said that the old covenant that “had glory” presently has “no glory,” he was saying exactly that. The old covenant dispensation which was formerly God’s vehicle to display Himself had come to an end.

Once the new covenant ministry arrived, with its primary purpose of granting new life in the Spirit through faith in Christ, the old covenant ministry, whose primary purpose was condemnation, was over.

May God glorify Himself through our faithful proclamation of the gospel of Christ as servants of the new covenant.