

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 22, 2009

“The Surpassing Effects of Paul’s Ministry as a Servant of the New Covenant”
2 Corinthians 3:14-16

The first surpassing effect of Paul’s ministry as a servant of the new covenant was boldness (2 Corinthians 3:12-13).

The second surpassing effect of Paul’s ministry as a servant of the new covenant was unveiling (2 Corinthians 3:14-16).

God hardened their minds in response to their ongoing stubbornness and rejection of God’s truth (Exodus 10:1).

The result of an ongoing and persistent rebellion and rejection of God’s truth will always result in a hardening whether we are Jew or Gentile (Romans 1:18-21).

The “same veil” is referring to the veil that Paul had referenced in 2 Corinthians 3:13 that Moses used to cover his face so that the glory radiating from it would not result in the people of Israel being destroyed (Exodus 34:29-35).

Paul used Moses’ veil as a metonymy, which is a figure of speech in which one thing is called by another thing associated with it.

Paul’s figurative reference to Moses’ veil was meant to be a picture of how their hard heartedness had resulted in them not being able to see clearly the glory of God in the reading of the old covenant.

The evidence that Paul presented to his readers, that God had in fact hardened the minds of the nation of Israel, was their ongoing inability to see the glory of God in the reading of the old covenant as pictured by Moses’ veil.

Though the minds and the hearts of the nation of Israel remain hardened and the veil unlifted, there is a future day coming when this will all change (Romans 11:25-26).

Though the veil that is presently covering the hearts of the nation of Israel will not be lifted until a future time, the veil covering the hearts of individual Jews and Gentiles can be lifted through the gospel of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:16).

May God give us the grace to boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ, knowing it can take away the veil that now covers the hearts of men.