

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for December 6, 2009**

**“The Surpassing Effects of Paul’s Ministry as a Servant of the New Covenant”**  
**2 Corinthians 3:17**

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).

The third surpassing effect of Paul’s ministry as a servant of the new covenant was liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Paul’s reference to the “Lord” (KYRIOS) in 2 Corinthians 3:17 was not a reference to Christ at all but rather to the Father of Christ.

Understanding Paul’s reference to the “Lord” as being a reference to “God The Father” is consistent with his commentary on Exodus 34:29-35 as contained in 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

Understanding Paul’s reference to “the Lord” to be a reference to God The Father is confirmed by Paul’s similar use of the term “Lord” (KYRIOS) in ten other New Testament texts in which Paul is either quoting or commenting on the Old Testament.

Those other texts are Romans 4:8; 9:28-29; 10:13; 11:34; 14:11; 15:11; 1 Corinthians 2:16; 3:20; 10:26.

The means by which God The Father has chosen to manifest His glory to those who turn to Him through faith in Christ is the Spirit.

When Paul uses the concept of “liberty,” he is primarily referring to the positive result of having the veil of hardheartedness lifted, or in other words having been set free from sin.

Just as Israel’s persistent hardening to the demands of the old covenant provided evidence of her ongoing and continuing separation from God (2 Corinthians 3:14-15). So too does our freedom from sin, as it is expressed in obedience to the law, provide evidence that we are in fact living in the presence of God The Father and His glory through the means of His Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17).

May God give us the grace to understand the opportunity that we have, as servants of the new covenant to live in the presence of God and to bask in His glory.