

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 13, 2009

“The Surpassing Effects of Paul’s Ministry as a Servant of the New Covenant”
2 Corinthians 3:18

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 an 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).

The fourth surpassing effect of Paul’s ministry as a servant of the new covenant was transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18).

When Paul referred to “all” in 2 Corinthians 3:18, he was referring to all Christians, or in other words to all members of the new covenant community, both Jew and Gentile.

When Paul described the servants of the new covenant as possessing an unveiled face, he, in essence, linked them with Moses who went into the tent of meeting with an unveiled face.

When Paul described the servants of the new covenant as “beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,” he, in essence, linked them with Moses who beheld the glory of the Lord in the tent of meeting.

Moses saw a manifestation of the glory of the Lord in the tent of meeting but he never was able to see the very image of the glory of the Lord as in a mirror like the servants of the new covenant.

The image of God the Father’s glory that has been provided for us “as in a mirror” is Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15).

We will see the glory of the invisible God in the face of Christ and will over time be steadily transformed into that image, the very image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

When Paul said, “just as from the Lord the Spirit,” he was communicating to his readers and to us that human transformation can only be done by the Spirit.

May God by His grace transform us from glory to glory into the very image of Christ so that He might be glorified in and through us.