2 CORINTHIANS 3 vs 1

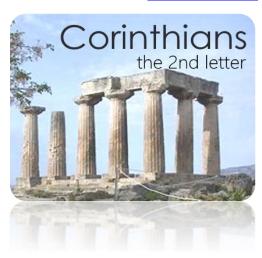
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¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?

or do we not need, like some, letters to you, or from you of recommendation? / do we need to present an official document of our credentials from a certain graduate studies program? Paul says, not necessary!

² You yourself are our letter written in our hearts, known and read by everybody / the way of life in the Spirit isn't taught at any university now days; their emphasis is science and research; looking through lots of microscopes and telescopes; not in search of love and truth:



³You show that you are a letter of Christ delivered by us,

written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God;

not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts / Paul says: our authorizations are written on your heart.

⁴Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God:

⁵ not that we are adequate in ourselves to claim anything as from ourselves / the school of life and hard knocks that Paul endured is outlined in chapter 11, but Paul began this letter reminding us, those traveling with him in Asia on the Turkish peninsula... were stoned in Lystra by religious zealots, dragged to the edge of the city and left for dead: To teach Paul and those with him: not to trust in themselves;

but our adequacy is from God / God's first grade student, albeit head of the class... was learning some tough lessons; Paul could say: Lesson learned! The felt experience certainly was something Paul could never forget: his lesson about: sufficiency, competency and adequacy is something all should take to heart;

who also made us adequate deacons of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit / like Stephen, full of the Spirit learned to do great things like, serving up good food especially to foreign women, and cleaning the tables; and maybe toilets, too... willing to do the shitty jobs; like our Lord who took all our stuff, for us; not check list, inquisitive, legalistic deacons, but heartfelt: loving, joyful, graceful deacons:

for the letter kills,

but the Spirit gives life.

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⁷ Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters of stone, was glorious / you know, if what deacons do: serving and ministering -- a clean-up crew of death; when the first instructions, spectacularly presented even by the great stammering and stuttering Moses... overwhelmed with fear... coming from Mount Sinai -- Heb.12:18-20,

so much so that the children of Israel could **not** gaze steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face; which faded / in God's economy, the old crew was very temporary:

⁸ won't the ministry of the Spirit be more glorious?

⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation was glorious / if serving on the old clean-up crew was glory,

much more the ministry of doing what is right exceeds in glory!

¹⁰ For what was made glorious / the old way; the bloody sacrificial way, that old law underscoring gloom and doom; death and destruction,

had no real glory in this respect, by reason of the exceeding glory.

11 If what is done away was glorious; what remains is much more glorious.

¹² Therefore having such hope, we use great boldness of speech;

¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so the children of Israel could not steadily gaze at the end of what was fading:

their minds were callous. For to this day, reading the old testament, the same veil remains, it is not uncovered / not only the House of Judah; but also the House of Israel and until today... our day; in the 21st century, the veil remains... not uncovered.

which veil is done away in Christ.

Paul is talking to people who are studying...Paul tells us there is a definite difference:

When Christ is read -- His lessons; His words versus When Moses is read -- the types and shadows.

when Moses and all the prophets... who wrote of the types and shadows of things to come... if that is all that is read, then, the superficial imitation of the old, selectively mimicking worn out practices... and reading to understand all the types and shadows, but missing the One those types and shadows point to... if that is all that is done: Paul says... if you stop there; your limited reading ignores all the other stuff in the scripture written for our benefit.

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But when someone turns to the Lord the veil is removed / Paul is talking about the heart; so Paul is talking about what might not have much impact on our genius 21st century generation... who are not sure they have a heart; since it's not scientific! So, their choice is simple: heart or heartless! And I would imagine a bad heart, is better than no heart; though a maturing heart, is better than an angry heart; and a heart full of joy and peace is best of all, right? Paul says, when those with a heart... turn to the Lord and they will: if Christ is read; if His words... His information, and what He taught those who joined Him... when His way of thinking is taken to heart, the veil is removed.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty / there is freedom to understand; freedom to build a life fashioned for eternity.

¹⁸ But we all, with uncovered face see clearly reflected as in a mirror the glory of the Lord / remember: Paul is talking about when we are reading the word...

He is talking about reading the old testament versus the new testament; being schooled by Moses = reading from Moses. reading from Christ = being schooled by Christ;

But we all with unveiled face see reflected in the reading of Christ / being schooled by Christ...

the glory of the Lord and are changed / metamorphoo... Dr. Dallas Willard of USC reminds us: our mind is where thoughts and feelings, together with external images beyond rational thought always intersect the soul. The heart, the executive of our being is not reached directly bypassing our mind. That is the way God created us with a unique place of freedom, where we decidedly say: **Yes**, or **No**!

We need to be careful about what thoughts -- which are accompanied by unruly feelings, and what images, we let in our mind. The heartless, addictive, impersonal world doesn't care about that; they spend millions on the images presented to our minds... and they are coming for yours and mine; because they also know: without a changed mind; there will be no changed heart.

Paul says,

But we all with unveiled face see reflected in the reading of Christ the glory of the Lord and are changed into the same image from glory to glory / from old, faded glory; to new glory; which is what God our Father wanted from the very beginning: men and women... made in His image and in His likeness.

even as by the Spirit of the Lord. You know, the Spirit of the Lord is ready to help; every day... He has been ready a long time: ask Him!

C <u>I'll Dance Like David</u> | <u>IESUS it is YOU</u> | <u>I Love You Yasua</u>