

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday Class
9 November 2025
Lesson 9
2 Corinthians 3:8-4:5

8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? **9** For if the ministration of condemnation *be* glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. **10** For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. **11** For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious. **12** Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: **13** And not as Moses, *which* put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: **14** But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *veil* is done away in Christ. **15** But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. **16** Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. **17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. **18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. **4:1** Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **3** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Being Led By the Spirit

(1) Veil Taken Away

12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: **13** And not as Moses, *which* put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: **14** But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *veil* is done away in Christ. **15** But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. **16** Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

The Apostle Paul quotes Exodus 34:34 to give the analogy of one who turns to Jesus will find salvation – ³⁴*But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.* (Exod. 34:34 KJV)

Just as Moses dwells in the presence of God with his veil removed, showing forth his glowing face, any Jew or Gentile, who turn to the Lord Jesus Christ finds spiritual life. Dwelling in the presence of God is a spiritual experience that is personal and this privilege is accorded to all who will turn from their sins and call upon Jesus as Lord and Saviour. This ought to be the purpose of reading the Old Testament Scripture. It is to point clearly to the reader that in Jesus is fulfilled the final revelation of God to men.

May the veil of unbelief and doubt give way to faith and spiritual understanding and the new birth. Truly, this is the greatest joy for any man, to be reconciled with his God and have the hope of eternal life. Thank God for the spiritual life that He has given us. May we cherish it.

(2) Being Led by the Spirit

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

In Romans 8:1-2, the Apostle Paul explained well our text, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:1-2 KJV) The child of God who is led by the Holy Spirit through the meditation of God’s Word is given the wisdom to choose God’s blessed path. Do you pray when you are meditating upon God’s Word to ask for illumination so that you may understand His Word? This is how we can get into the mind of God when we are shown the blessed will of God through His Spirit, we will choose to obey.

Obedience and submission to God’s revealed will bring us to walk in the blessed path of spiritual success. When the steward of Abraham was entrusted by his master to find a wife for Isaac his master’s son, he sought God’s help and was wonderfully led to meet Rebekah. He sought the Lord – *12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.* (Gen. 24:12 KJV)

This is the sequel to the story. The Lord grant wisdom to Abraham’s steward and he accomplished the task – *27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master’s brethren.* (Gen. 24:27 KJV) What a testimony of God’s guiding grace in the lives of His people. May this encourage you to lean upon the Lord through prayer and His Word this day.

(3) Beholding the Glory of God

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When God brought Israel out of Egypt, He instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle. It was to be the visible physical presence of God with His people. In the Holy of Holies, was the ark of the covenant. It was to be the throne of God where He would meet with His people. When Israel entered the Promised Land, they would be instructed through Solomon to build the Temple of God. The nation of Israel is God’s chosen people and this nation is to point the nations of the world to the reality of salvation in her Christ. In the fullness of time, the Saviour named Jesus, Who is the Christ entered human history through a virgin birth in the womb of Mary, the humble handmaid of Nazareth. Jesus is the fulfilment of the Tabernacle and the Temple reality of God’s presence. Jesus will be the sacrifice for sins upon the cross so that sinful man may draw nigh to a Thrice Holy God.

The church in Corinth came into existence because souls were saved through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as the gospel was preached. The miracle of the new birth was a reality in the lives of the Christians in Corinth. Whereas before, they were in bondage to sin, now, they have been freed from the bondage of sin through Christ. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Lord indwelling the believer helps him to understand God’s Word, the Bible, to comprehend the glory of God. He is able to come before the very presence of God through Christ in believing prayer, beholding the glory of God by the Spirit of the Lord.

The mercy seat is no longer available only once a year. In Christ, we no longer need an earthly high priest to intercede on our behalf. No longer must a sacrifice be slain for us. The veil is torn away. God bids us come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace in any time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

May we accept this invitation and appropriate this privilege.

(4) We Faint Not

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

The Apostle Paul praised the sustaining grace of God in the work of the ministry. He attributed it to the mercy of God. He deserved God's condemnation and yet God did not count his sins to his account. He was mercifully forgiven. He recalled how he was a blasphemer. He was struck blind and could have remained blind. God sent Ananias to restore his sight. And given him eternal life, divine grace and power for service. Since then, he experienced the forgiveness of sins and the presence of God to bless and keep him. He was able to testify how he and his co-workers faint not because they have committed their lives to God's care.

This is our privilege as God's children, we faint not because God is our ready helper. The psalmist testified of his confidence for a new day in Psalm 16. He did not wander off from God's commandments but was obedient to the truth. He will not allow faithless thoughts to derail him in his walk. He understood the sovereign care of God in his life.

^{KJV} **Psalm 16:1** <Michtam of David.> **Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.** ² *O my soul,* thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou *art* my Lord: my goodness *extendeth* not to thee; ³ *But* to the saints that *are* in the earth, and *to* the excellent, in whom *is* all my delight. ⁴ Their sorrows shall be multiplied *that* hasten *after* another *god*: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips. ⁵ The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. ⁶ The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, I have a goodly heritage. ⁷ I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. ⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved.** ⁹ **Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.** ¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ **Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.** (Ps. 16:1-11 KJV)

He testifies that he has experienced the care of God, his heart is glad. He has seen the glory of God sustaining him like a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night for the Israelites in the wilderness. Therefore, in this new day, he shall rest in hope. May the Lord strengthen you in this new day.

(5) Blinded by the god of This World

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The Apostle Paul and his co-workers have not failed to declare the glorious gospel. It is his prayer that the light of the glorious gospel, as a bright noonday sun that shone on that blessed day in his life on the way to Damascus, that restored the image of God in him, may so shine to others. Given to understand the truth, gloriously saved en route to heaven, he felt the burden that others may also be saved.

He saw that there was a battle at hand, Satan, the god of this world does blind the hearts of them who believe not. He does not want to see them saved. But Paul has done his part to declare the gospel and God desires for the salvation of these souls. What is the cause? William MacDonald offered a few suggestions when he said, "It may be the cloud of pride, or of rebellion, or of self-righteousness, or any one of a hundred other things. But all of these serve effectively to hinder the light of the gospel from shining in."

Thank God there is that determined gospel band of God's servants praying and preaching His Word to break down the strongholds of bondage. May the gospel have full rein in the hearts of the unsaved this day as the gospel is preached.

(6) Your Servants For Jesus' Sake

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

The Apostle Paul and his co-workers understood well the Lordship of Christ in their lives. The distinction of this Master-servant is very clear to them. Recall he was struck blind by Jesus. He understood well his place in God's economy. He understood the motions of pride as Scripture recorded of Lucifer, the archangel's fall.

Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:15-18 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Their work in the preaching of the gospel was to point men to find their all-sufficiency in Jesus Christ. And their role is to accomplish the will of their Master and receive their reward in eternity for faithful service. Indeed, we have been gloriously saved by the grace of God. We are sinners through and through and therefore without any bargaining chip with God. We are wholly at God's disposal. This is the understanding we must have in order to have the right attitude for service. It is to repay the debt of sin that Christ has borne on our behalf so that we can enjoy our heavenly inheritance. May the Lord help us to run and finish our course on earth for His honour and glory.