

## Revealing the Savior

2 Corinthians 3: 18

This morning is a special time for believers at Fellowship. In a few moments we will partake of the Lord's Supper in worship and remembrance of the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf so we could be forgiven and cleansed of our sin, being reconciled to God. Each time I approach the Lord's Table I am reminded of what our Lord endured and the holiness He possesses. Each of us must search our hearts as we come before the Lord, seeking to be as pure as possible.

Our text this morning deals with the glory of our Lord and the obligation we have to represent Him well in a sin cursed world, revealing His grace and glory. This passage does not specifically deal with partaking of the Communion Service, but if our lives are lived in light of these words, we would be better prepared to partake.

As I read this passage I was reminded of an excerpt from Max Lucado's book: *It's Not About Me*. "The moon models our role. What does the moon do? She generates no light... Apart from the sun, the moon is nothing more than a pitch-black, pockmarked rock. But properly positioned, the moon beams... The moon reflects the greater light. And she's happy to do so...! The moon is at peace in her place. And because she is, soft light touches a dark earth. What would happen if we accepted our place as Son reflectors?" Wouldn't it be great if all believers were genuinely "Son reflectors?" We can be if we will walk in fellowship with the Lord.

Let's take a few moments this morning to discuss the [observations](#) in the text as we consider the thought: [Revealing the Savior](#).

**I. The Relationship** (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](#). We must bear in mind Paul is speaking to the believer. In the verses leading up to this final statement in Chapter three, he has discussed how Moses' face shone as he came down from Mount Sinai with the tables of stone recording the commandments of God. That was certainly a glorious event. Moses had communed with God, and by being in His presence, the face of Moses shone so brightly he had to put on a veil so the people could look upon him.

- Paul uses the veil of Moses to represent the veil of separation between God and man in the Old Testament. God's presence was, and is glorious, but only a select few had the privilege to experience His glory. The law was given to reveal God to man and the sin in their lives, but it was never meant to save. Christ had come and removed the veil of separation. Many were still blinded behind the veil, refusing to look beyond the law to Christ, but if they would only look to Him, by grace through faith, they could experience a greater glory!

- Praise the Lord the veil of separation has been removed. We no longer depend on a high priest to make intercession for us. The saved have the glorious privilege of experiencing the glory of God through Christ our Savior! Every born again believer can enter the throne room of grace and take our petitions to our Mediator and Intercessor. This privilege is not reserved for a select few, but all the saved have direct access. We have been made partakers of the greater glory!

## **I. The Relationship (18)**

**II. The Reflection (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.** The Old Testament believers did not have the privilege to approach God. Most of them lived and died without experiencing His glory in a real, personal way. As Christ died upon the cross, and rose again in victory, the veil was removed. We now have the privilege of a personal relationship with Christ. This has the idea of “*standing face to face, looking directly at another.*” The veil of mystery has been removed. We no longer see Jesus only through prophecies, types and pictures. We can enter the very presence of the Son of God, our Savior!

- Through Christ the Son, we experience the glory, brilliance, and splendor of God. The eternal God-Man has revealed His glory to us through our personal relationship with Him. **John 1:14 – And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** Isn't that amazing when we think of it? We have to opportunity to behold the glory of God through a relationship with Christ! He who came to earth robed in flesh, bearing our sin and shame upon the cross, made a way for us to be reconciled to God and experience His presence in a real way. **2 Cor.4:6 – For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

➤ I also realized another important fact concerning the privilege we have. Paul spoke of our ability to behold the glory of the Lord, **as in a glass.** We see Him more clearly than the saints of old, seeing His glory in light of the Gospel, but this literally speaks of a *mirror*. We see Christ through the mirror of His Word. Much is revealed to mere mortals about the eternal God through the Word, but our comprehension and understanding is limited at best. There is no way we could ever fully comprehend the deity and glory of our Lord. We see a beautiful reflection in His Word, but He is beyond comprehension. Now we see through a glass darkly, but one day we shall behold Him face to face. We will one day stand in the very presence of our Lord in heaven, and we will be with Him throughout the endless ages!

## **I. The Relationship** (18)

## **II. The Reflection** (18)

**III. The Resemblance** (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.* Here Paul declares a revealing fact: the more we look upon Jesus our Lord, the more we resemble Him. As we walk with the Lord in daily fellowship, our lives are transformed more into His image. The word *changed* comes from the Greek word from which we get our word metamorphosis. It means “*to transform, transfigure, change one's form.*” We all remember studying metamorphosis in school. Once the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it is completely changed, no longer resembling the form it once had, and will never return to the former state.

- Every believer ought to have a desire to be transformed into the image of Christ. We have been saved from sin, lifted out of the miry clay and pardoned from condemnation. We will never go back to the condemned state we once held, but all believers do not resemble their Lord. I want to continually grow in His grace so that I resemble Him more each day! We are assured of the outcome if we spend time beholding the glory of Christ. If we take the time to study His Word and learn of Him, we will be more like Him. This is the natural process of transformation and the will of God for our lives. *Rom.8:29 – For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* *2 Cor.5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

**IV. The Reliance** (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.* As I considered the magnitude of what we have discussed, I realized this is certainly a noble desire, but it is also a very difficult task. When we were saved the old man of sin died and we were resurrected a new creature in Christ, but we still dwell in a body of flesh that desires to please itself. The flesh desires that which is contrary to the spirit. The truth is we could never behold the Lord through His Word or resemble Him in our lives within ourselves. We would never grasp a convincing picture of Christ in the Word apart from the Spirit. We will never overcome the desires of the flesh in such a way that we can resemble Christ without the guidance and help of the Spirit. If we are to reveal the Lord through our lives, we must be enabled through the Spirit.

- As we spend time in the Word and in communion with our Lord, the Spirit works in us to make us more like Christ. He chips away at the desires and tendencies of the old man and replaces them with the likeness of Christ. The closer we walk with the Lord, the more the Spirit works within us to transform us into the image of Christ.

**Conclusion:** Don't you want to be a "Son reflector?" Don't you want to reveal Jesus unto a world that desperately needs to see Him? Don't you desire to become more like Jesus? I am amazed at such an opportunity, but it is possible if we will submit to the Lord and gaze upon Him.

Have you ever heard a couple, after years of marriage, described as being just alike? I have even heard some claim that certain couples even began to look alike after many years of marriage. I don't know about that, but I have experienced couples who almost seemed to know what the other would say before they ever spoke. Clearly this comes from an intimate knowledge of that person. They have spent so much time together that they literally become one. We can have that relationship with Christ if we desire it. Wouldn't it be great for people to think we look like our Lord? How does this world view you?

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in just a moment. This is a time for believers to reflect on what Christ has done in their lives. It is a reminder of His suffering and sacrificial atonement. Have you met Christ in salvation? If you have never been saved, the Lord's Supper holds no significance for you, but it can if you will respond to Christ in faith. May we each search our hearts this morning prior to celebrating the Lord's Supper.