

Beholding and Being Transformed

2 Corinthians 2-3

Jeff Coleman, 18 September 2022



Caversham
Community
Church



PAUL'S CORINTHIAN CONTACTS							
<i>Paul's first visit</i>	His former letter	Their letter to him	1 Corinthians	<i>Paul's painful visit</i>	His severe letter	2 Corinthians	<i>Paul's future visit</i>

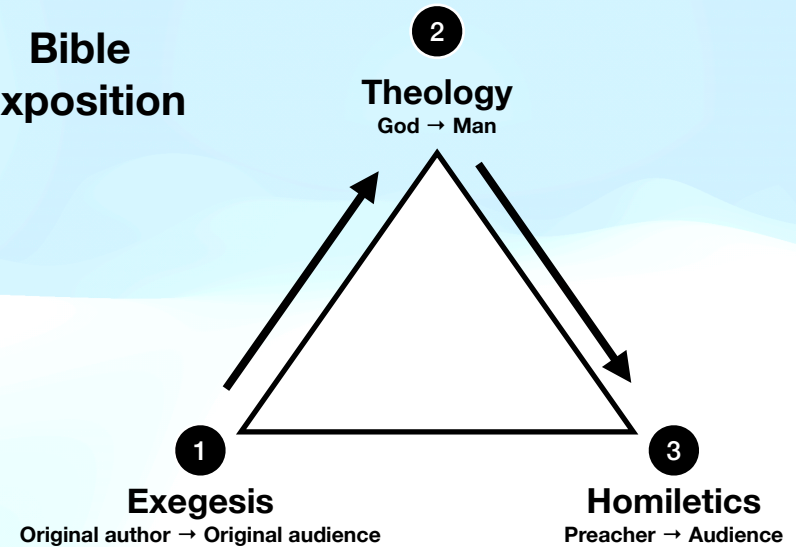
Paul's Purposes in Writing 2 Corinthians

- Encourage the repentant majority (1:3-5).
- Explain his changed travel plans (1:16-17).
- Complete the financial collection for the saints in Judea (8:7).
- Vindicate his apostleship in view of criticisms (11:5).
- Prepare for this third visit to Corinth (13:10).
- Promote restoration of the rebellious minority (13:9-11).

2 Corinthians at a Glance

Ch.	Section	Sub-Section	Sub-Sub Section	Ch. Themes
1	Repentant Majority	Explanation: Paul's Account of His Ministry	Paul's Motive	Comfort in Affliction
2			Reaffirm Your Love	
3			Ministers of a New Covenant	
4			Paul's Message	
5				
6		Exhortation: Paul's Appeal to His Converts	On Things Spiritual	
7				
8			On Things Material	
9				
10		Rebellious Minority	Vindication: Paul's Answer to His Critics	The Critics and Their Pretensions
11				
12	The Apostle and His Credentials			
13				

Bible Exposition



2 Corinthians 2-3

Ministers of a New Covenant 2 Corinthians 2-3

- The Aroma of Messiah (2:14-17)
- A Letter from Messiah (3:1-3)
- Sufficiency as Ministers of a New Covenant (3:4-6)
- The New Covenant's Greater Glory (3:7-11)
- Beholding and Being Transformed (3:12-18)

The Aroma of Messiah

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- 14 But thanks be to God, who in Messiah always leads us [as captives or victors] in triumphal procession (θριαμβεύω), and through us spreads the odour (ὄσμη) of the knowledge (γνώσις) of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma (εὐωδία) of Messiah to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a stench (ὄσμη) from death to death, to the other a fragrance (ὄσμη) from life to life. Who is *sufficient* (ικανός) for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers (καπηλεύω) of God's word, but as people of sincerity (εὐλικρίνεια), but as from God in the sight of God we are speaking (λαλέω) in Messiah.

A Letter from Messiah

2 Corinthians 3:1-3

- 1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation (συστατικός), written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. 3 And you show that you are a letter from Messiah 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.

Sufficiency as New Covenant Ministers

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

- 4 Such is the confidence (πεποίθησις) that we have through Messiah toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient (ικανός) in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency (ικανότης) is from God, 6 who has made us sufficient (ικανόω) to be ministers of a New covenant (διακόνους καινῆς διαθήκης), not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Mosaic (Old) Covenant

Quick Facts

- The Mosaic covenant is the agreement God cut with the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai after he had redeemed them from slavery in Egypt (Ex 24).
- The Israelites were already believers when God entered into the Mosaic covenant with them (Ex 19).
- The Mosaic covenant was conditional and involved blessings and cursings (Dt 28).
- Israel promised multiple times to keep the Mosaic covenant, but she never came close (Ex 19, 24).
- Jesus perfectly fulfilled the requirements of the Mosaic law (Mt 5), took upon himself the curse of the Mosaic covenant (Ga 3), and then ended the Mosaic covenant (2 Co 3).
- The Mosaic covenant is a tutor to lead us to justification by grace through faith in Messiah (Ga 3).

The New Covenant

Quick Facts

- Israel's prophets began to predict the New covenant once it was clear Israel could never live up to the Mosaic covenant (Je 31)
- The New covenant originally applied to Israel, but the church has been grafted into it (Ro 11).
- The basis for the New covenant is the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross (Mt 26). We commemorate this every Sunday as we share in the Lord's supper (Lk 22).
- The New covenant is unconditional and eternal (He 13).
- The promises of the New covenant include the forgiveness of sins, new hearts, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Je 31; Eze 36).
- Some New covenant promises, primarily ones related to Israel, have not yet been fulfilled (Is 61).

The New Covenant's Greater Glory

2 Corinthians 3:7-11

- 7 Now if the ministry (διακονία) of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory (δόξα) that the sons of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end (καταργέω, pres. pass. part.), 8 will not the ministry (διακονία) of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation (κατάκρισις), the ministry of righteousness (δικαιοσύνη) must far exceed (περισσεύω) it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses (ὑπερβάλλω) it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end (καταργέω, pres. pass. part.) came with glory, much more will what is permanent (μένω) have glory.

SUMMARY OF CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS

1.	economy	(old)	new	v. 6
2.	type	letter	spirit	v. 6
3.	result manward	death	life	v. 6
4.	vehicle	stone	Spirit	v. 7
5.	result Godward	some glory	greater glory	vv. 7, 8, 10
6.	purpose	condemnation	righteousness	v. 9
7.	duration	temporary	permanent	v. 11
8.	symbol	veil	mirror	vv. 13-18
9.	initiator	Moses	Christ	vv. 12-14

Beholding and Being Transformed

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

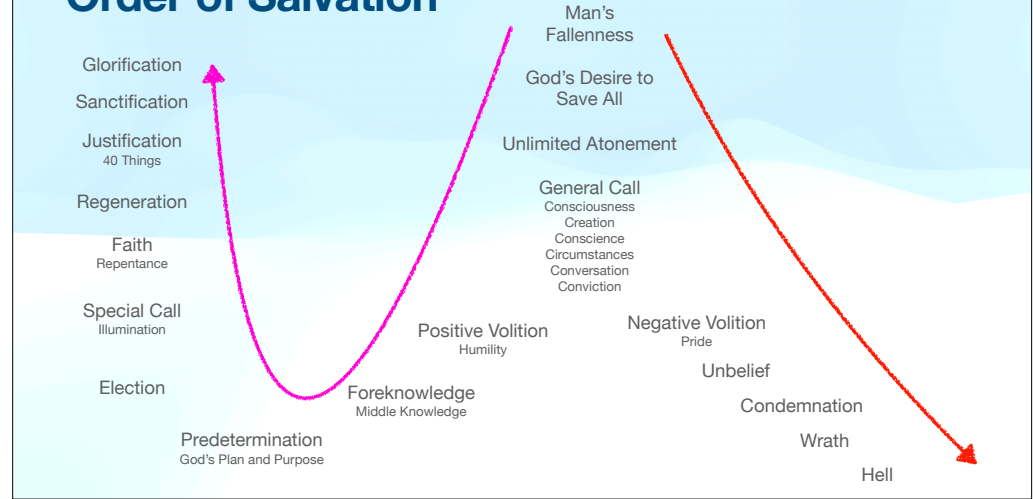
- 12 Because we have such a hope (ἐλπίς), we are very bold (παρρησία), 13 not like Moses, who would put a veil (κάλυμμα) over his face so that the sons of Israel might not gaze at the outcome (τέλος) of what was being brought to an end (καταργέω, pres. pass. part.). 14 But their minds (νόημα) were hardened (πρωρόω, aor. pass.). For to this day, when they read (ἀνάγνωσις) the Old covenant (τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης), that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Messiah is it taken away (καταργέω, pres. pass. ind.). 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts (καρδία).

Beholding and Being Transformed

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

- 16 But when one turns (ἐπιστρέφω) to the Lord [Jesus], the veil is removed (περιαιρέω, pres. pass.). 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, freedom (ἐλευθερία) [from the old covenant for a life of new covenant service]. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding (κατοπτρίζω, pres. mid.) the glory of the Lord [Jesus], are being transformed (μεταμορφώω, pres. pass.) into the same image (εἰκών) from glory into glory (ἀπὸ δόξης εἰς δόξαν), as from the Lord [Jesus], the Spirit (ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος).

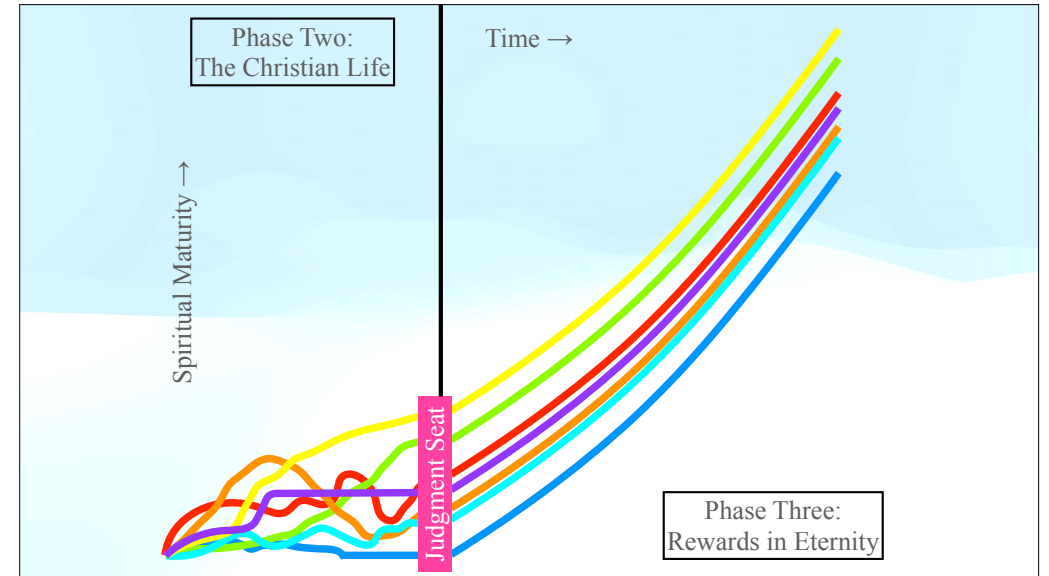
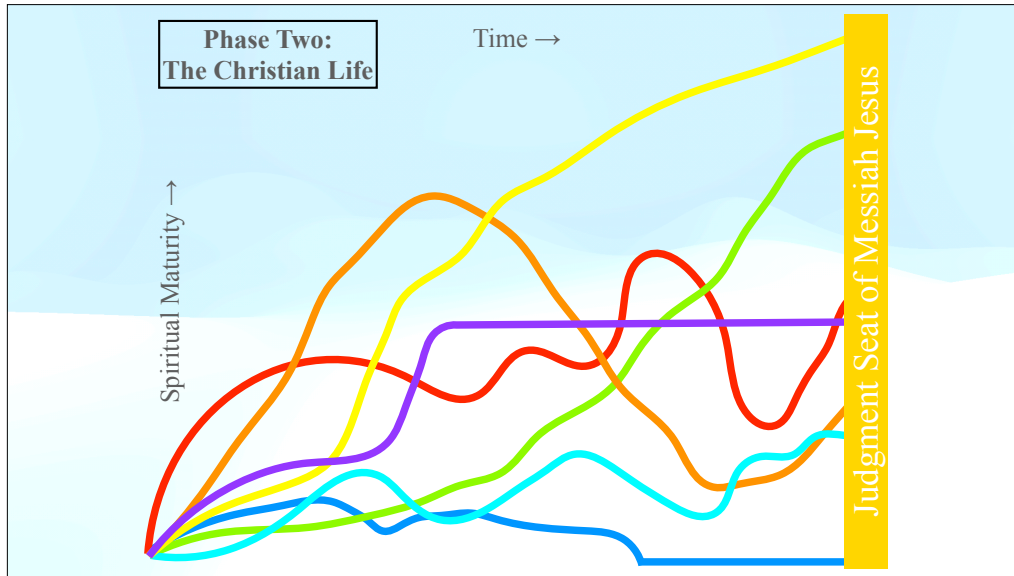
Order of Salvation



THREE PHASES OF SALVATION

Phase Zero	Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three
Condemnation	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Saved from nothing	Saved from the penalty of sin	Saved from the power of sin	Saved from the presence of sin
Life as an unbeliever	Moment of faith in Jesus	Believer's lifetime	Eternity future
No faith or works	Faith alone	Faith and works	Works alone

Freed from...	For...	Romans
Death	Life	5
Sin	Righteousness	6
Law	Grace	7
Flesh	Spirit	8



Application

2 Corinthians 2-3

- Behold Christ and be transformed.
- Live the New covenant life, by the Spirit, not the Old covenant life, by the law.
- Be a confident as a Christian and as a church.