

Wesley Wright

Lighthouse Bible Church
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Title: A hardened mind

2 Corinthians 3:1-16

Remember, Paul referred to his readers as a letter of sorts (2 Corinthians 3:1) — their lives served as a testimony of the work the Lord was doing via him and the apostles.

The Spirit of the living God wrote that “letter,” which is better than one written with mere ink (2 Corinthians 3:3). God made the apostles ministers of a new covenant not of the letter but instead of the Spirit.

That ministry of death (2 Corinthians 3:7) was the Ten Commandments and Old Testament laws/statutes more generally. When you ran afoul of them, you deserved death as a result.

Exodus 24:12-18

Numbers 15:32-36

Deuteronomy 27:26

*Paul references this in Galatians 3:10

Moses had a veil over his face so that the people could not look at him (2 Corinthians 3:7-8). There's a veil of sorts over many Israelites now so acknowledge someone greater than Moses.

The Israelites saw fit for Moses to speak with God, since they were too afraid.

Exodus 20:18-26

Exodus 34:29-35

**Jesus is greater than Moses, and Moses
wrote of him: John 5:39-46**

**Jesus is greater than Moses, and God
made that clear: Hebrews 3:1-6**

Paul juxtaposes the ministry of
righteousness with the ministry of
condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:9).

We believers now are the righteousness
of God, in Christ:

- Romans 3:21-26
- Philippians 3:8-11

By comparison, the old covenant had no glory in comparison to the new and better one, per 2 Corinthians 3:10.

The second covenant is a superior one:
Hebrews 8:6-13

**The law of Moses freed no one, but we
have liberty in Christ: Acts 13:32-39**

The Israelites blindness isn't a new phenomenon — it's part of prophecy long ago tied to their disobedience.

Isaiah 6:1-13

Isaiah 44:12-20

Jeremiah 5:21-31

Their blindness is in only in part:
Romans 11:25-27

The Israelites' minds have been hardened, scripture says, when they read Moses or the old covenant (2 Corinthians 3:14-16).

The solution to that blindness, Paul writes, comes in only Christ (2 Corinthians 3:14-16).

John 9:1-12; John 9:19-30

Israel is not cast away:

- Romans 11:1-8
- Jeremiah 31:31-37
- Hosea 2:18-20

The Israelites largely (but not completely) reject the Messiah who came and died for them. They don't understand his sacrifice, and they undermine it.

That same Lord Jesus Christ who died for them is the only way to have the veil removed. They must acknowledge him to go from blindness to sight.

The new covenant is a glorious one, and a superior one, having come through a Man who is by definition greater than Moses (who brought forth the old one).

Thank God that there is no veil over our eyes, and that we can point people to the solution for that veil. It's the Lord Jesus Christ, then and now.

Next week, we'll address those who are lost at the moment, and the god of this world, who has rendered them that way. The gospel is veiled to them too.