

# FROM FADING GLORY TO FLAMING GLORY

## *CORINTHIANS 3:1-18*

[Ex. 33:12-23; 34:29-35]

GLORY is used 13 times in vss. 7-11, 18. Glory means: Splendor, brightness; magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace; the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity [Thayer]

Glory is “the luminous manifestation of His person, His glorious revelation of Himself [Colin Brown].”

Glory is “Who God is and what He is like.” Don Cooper

### **1. From an aroma of death to a fragrance of life.**

A. **2 Cor 2:15-16** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; (16) to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

B. As the bee brings sweetness to its own master, but stings others.

### **2. From self-confidence to self-surrender. vss. 4-6a**

A. We are not arrogant or boastful, nor are we pride-filled; we are pure and simply confident in God.

### **3. From ministers of death to ministers of life. vss. 6-7**

A. How was the Old Covenant a ministry of Death? By works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

### **4. From ministers of condemnation to ministers of righteousness. vss. 9-11**

A. **Verse 10.** By showing that this glory could not remain in the light of the more excellent glory, he has destroyed the thought of approaching God upon any other basis.

1. It was actually a Divine glory, greatly diminished when reflected on Moses' skin. His face was “made glorious.” The glory, therefore, was a borrowed glory, yet legitimate.
2. The New Covenant essentially deals with eternal things, and we are to think of it in that regard.
3. The Old Covenant dealt exclusively with temporal matters and issues.
4. That first covenant has not become obsolete because of a mere time-line, so to speak. Rather, it is because something “better” has been put into place

B. **Verse 11.** It was the attending glory that was “done away,” not the Ten Commandments, as some have erroneously taught.

1. Rom 10:4 “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” The Law as a means of being saved is done away with.

### **5. From ministry of shame to ministry of boldness. vss. 12-18**

A. **Verse 12.** Under the New Covenant we have insight, understanding, perception, and comprehension

B. **Verse 13.** We are not as Moses. Paul's commission was to “open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light” (**Acts 26:18**).

1. The glory of the Lord transformed his face, but his face could not transform the people. Transforming glory only passes to the first generation. The “changed” generation cannot of itself provoke change in the next generation.

C. **Verse 14.** He does not say Israel was blind, but that they were “blinded.” They were not dull, but were “made dull.” They were not hard, but were “hardened.”

We will find that transformation cannot come by glances, glimpses, and brief exposures to Divine glory.