



Our World Needs You – to Want the “More”
Message Notes, October 7, 2018
II Corinthians 3:6-18

Since Keith’s announcement in Jan 2017, that he would be stepping out of his role as lead pastor here at CCC (to pursue broader leadership in our denomination), we have been in a “season of transition.” But God is calling us to embrace these two years, not merely as “transition” but more as a season of TRANSFORMATION.

- Transition is about changes in position, roles, status.
- Transformation is about dramatic change from the inside out, change that people can see in our lives.
- In transition, we typically focus on WHY this is happening.
- In transformation, we ask God, “what are you doing or wanting to do in me?”
- Transformation draws us into the “more:” “will not the ministry of the Spirit be even **more** glorious.”
- II Corinthians 3:8.

Let’s explore this passage (written by Paul to the church at Corinth) to better understand this “MORE.”

II Corinthians 3:6-18: Paul is writing to express how “the new covenant” is so much more than the “old.” He focuses on the central theme of GLORY – which is “the way God makes Himself recognizable.” Paul compares God’s old covenant through the Law with the new covenant of grace through Jesus. The latter is “more glorious” – bringing a fuller revelation of God and a deeper experience of His presence.

Old Covenant (of Law)

By the righteous reign of Yahweh (God)
Based in the Law (commands of God)
Only Moses could approach God
The glory of the Law was fading
The letter of the Law brings death
Law unable to produce righteous people
Depends on human effort, ability, works

* Leads to *condemnation*

New Covenant (of Grace)

By the Spirit of Jesus
Based in Grace (through the cross of Jesus)
ALL have access to “his throne of grace”
Jesus’ glory never fades (and it grows *in us*)
The covenant of grace brings life (full & eternal)
Grace thru the Spirit produces righteousness in people
Depends on God’s love & grace, through Christ, by the power of Holy Spirit *in us*.

Leads to *affirmation*

* **MORE:** glory, hope, freedom, life!

- Vs 12 – “therefore since we have *such a hope*, we are very bold.”
 - Our theme all this year has been “Harvest” – that we would have the compassion of Jesus and **boldness** to lovingly share His gospel with the lost - “helpless & harassed like sheep without a shepherd” – Matt 9:36.
 - The fuel for this loving boldness is “*such a hope!*” The “more” of grace, His Spirit, His glory, His life - IN us.

- Vs 17 – “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” Not freedom to simply do what we please, but freedom from sin and separation. The freedom to turn TO the Lord in repentance. The freedom to be TRANSFORMED. The freedom to become MORE like Jesus!

The “More:”

- Begins with Repentance (turning FROM our own way and turning TO the Lord) A *daily* life of surrendering.
- “The veil is taken away” – the veil of sin that separates and blinds us
- The Spirit of the Lord is present – bringing power to heal & transform, producing His fruit in us, bringing:
 - Freedom - from sin and separation, from Law and performance, from condemnation and fear
- “We are BEING transformed, into His likeness, with ever-increasing glory” - steadily, little by little, throughout the long journey of our lives.
- *Metamorphosis* - like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. The caterpillar does not transform itself (the Creator does that); the caterpillar’s part is to **position itself** for transformation.
- The verb tense of this “being transformed” has 3 dimensions:
 - present, now
 - it is happening TO us (*we* are not doing it)
 - it is ongoing

HOW do we “do” our part? HOW do we “position ourselves?”

- We contemplate God’s glory (His presence). **We give Him our attention!**
- We seek Him, listen for His voice, open our lives to Him, respond to what He speaks and reveals.
- He has given us all manner of helps, means of grace, to help us attend to Him: scripture, the gift of prayer, community, the experience of worship, thanksgiving, testimonies, feasting & fasting, solitude, nature, beauty, and so much more.
- As we pay attention and contemplate His glory, “we, with unveiled faces, all reflect the Lord’s glory [to the world around us *because*] we are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory” (vs 18)

This is the “MORE”! This is our hope. This is our life. Let us rejoice and give thanks to our gracious God.