



Town Hall Meetings
10:15am, 12:15am and 8:15pm



**Congregational Vote Scheduled for
December 11th, 2011**
after each service

A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



2 Corinthians 3:1-6

¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.



RENI, Guido

Moses with the Tables of the Law

c. 1624

Oil on canvas, 173 x 134 cm

Galleria Borghese, Rome

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

⁴Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Glory of the Cross:

*Why is Jesus needed to
Complete the Old
Testament?*



2 Corinthians 3:7-11

⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!



The Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Restoration



The Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Restoration

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands at the top edge, holding a piece of fabric. The fabric is split vertically down the middle. The left side is a dark, textured material, possibly a heavy knit or wool. The right side is a lighter, more translucent material, possibly a mesh or a different type of fabric. The word "UNVEILED" is printed in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the fabric, spanning both sides of the vertical split. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

UNVEILED

1. Hope that brings boldness.

2 Corinthians 3:12

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2. “You can’t handle the truth”

2 Corinthians 3:13

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

Exodus 34:1-4. 29-35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

Exodus 34:1-4. 29-35

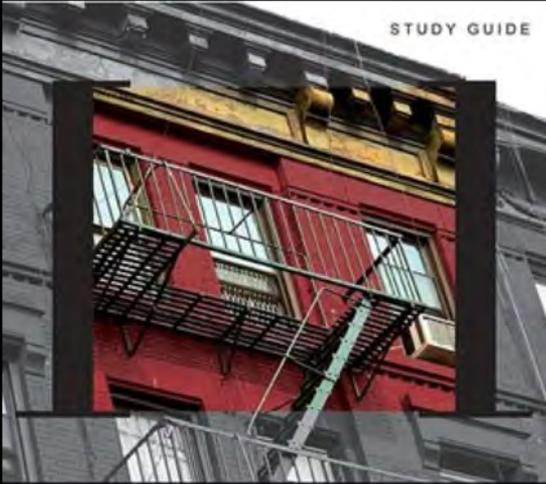
³³When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

3. Veiled lives...

2 Corinthians 3:14-15

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

STUDY GUIDE



gospelⁱⁿ**life**
Grace Changes Everything
EIGHT SESSIONS

TIMOTHY KELLER



3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

I obey - therefore I'm
accepted.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

My motivation is based on
fear and insecurity.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

I obey God in order to get things from God.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe, like Job's friends that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

When I am criticized I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a 'good person'. Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

My prayer life consists largely of petition and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to failing people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel insecure and inadequate. I'm not confident. I feel like a failure.

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work. Or how moral I am, and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to 'the other.'

3. Veiled lives...

RELIGION:

Since I look to my own pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols. It may be my talents, my moral record, my personal discipline, my social status, etc. I absolutely have to have them so they serve as my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I may say I believe about God.

4. No veil! Big time reflection!

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

I obey – therefore I'm
accepted.

THE GOSPEL:

I'm accepted - therefore I
obey.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

My motivation is based on
fear and insecurity.

THE GOSPEL:

Motivation is based on
grateful joy.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

I obey God in order to get things from God.

THE GOSPEL:

I obey God to get to God-to delight and resemble Him.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe, like Job's friends that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

THE GOSPEL:

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that while he may allow this for my training, he will exercise his Fatherly love within my trial.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

When I am criticized I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a 'good person'. Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.

THE GOSPEL:

When I am criticized I struggle, but it is not critical for me to think of myself as a 'good person.' My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on God's love for me in Christ. I can take criticism.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

My prayer life consists largely of petition and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment.

THE GOSPEL:

My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with Him.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to failing people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel insecure and inadequate. I'm not confident. I feel like a failure.

THE GOSPEL:

My self-view is not based on a view of my self as a moral achiever. In Christ I am "*simul iustus et peccator*" – simultaneously sinful and yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad he had to die for me and I am so loved he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deeper and deeper humility and confidence at the same time. Neither swaggering nor sniveling.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work. Or how moral I am, and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to 'the other.'

THE GOSPEL:

My identity and self-worth are centered on the one who died for His enemies, who was excluded from the city for me. I am saved by sheer grace. So I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace I am what I am. I've no inner need to win arguments.

4. No Veil! Big time reflection!

RELIGION:

Since I look to my own pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols. It may be my talents, my moral record, my personal discipline, my social status, etc. I absolutely have to have them so they serve as my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I may say I believe about God.

THE GOSPEL:

I have many good things in my life – family, work, spiritual disciplines, etc. But none of these good things are ultimate things to me. None of them are things I absolutely have to have, so there is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and despondency they can inflict on me when they are threatened and lost.

Gospel Application

UNVEILED