

Change is Your Friend: God's Will Is to Make You Like Christ  
2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Main Idea: The New Covenant we live under is superior to the Old because the life-giving Spirit is permanently changing us into the glorious image of Jesus.

- I. The Jews were blinded to God's glory and fail to see it today because the blindness is only removed when someone turns to Christ (vss 12-16).

<sup>13</sup> "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup> "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; <sup>15</sup> FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.' Matthew 13:13-15 (NASB)

<sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; Romans 11:25 (NASB)

- II. Those who are no longer blinded, see God's glory in Jesus and are being transformed by the Spirit into that glorious image (vss 17-18)

<sup>1</sup> It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> **Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.** 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> **Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.** 1 John 3:2 (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** <sup>19</sup> **For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.** Romans 8:18-19 (NASB)

### The Contrast Between the Old and New Covenant

#### Old Covenant

1. Only one beheld God's glory
2. Moses was temporarily transformed. His glory faded. (vs. 7)
3. The old covenant was without life or power. (vss 6-7)
4. The Law led to condemnation (vs. 9)
5. The old covenant/law did not change People

#### New Covenant

1. All behold the Lord's glory (vs 18)
2. We are permanently transformed. Our Glory increases.
3. In the new covenant the Spirit gives life And power.
4. The Spirit gives freedom (vs 17)
5. The new covenant changes people (vs 18)

### III. Applications.

- A. God's will for us involves changing.

<sup>24</sup> **Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.** Galatians 3:24 (NASB)

- B. We don't change God's truth or the authority of his word.

- C. Realize God will use this change to transform you to be more like Jesus and that he will bring greater good.