

Sufficiency, Security & Growth

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.

Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.

Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1. Sufficiency that comes from God
2. Security that come from the New Covenant
3. Real growth that comes from beholding Christ.

Sufficiency that comes from God

Sufficiency that comes from God

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? (v.1)

Sufficiency that comes from God

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God... (v.4-5)

Sufficiency that comes from God

Personal feelings of insufficiency are not problems to be solved, but through the Gospel, are a reality in which we are called to rest, because God is our sufficiency.

“God can achieve his purpose either through the absence of human power and resources, or the abandonment of reliance on them. All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual dependence on him made possible the unique display of his power and grace. He chose and used somebodies only when they renounced dependence on their natural abilities and resources.” - Oswald Chambers

Sufficiency that comes from God

Security that come from the New Covenant

Security that come from the New Covenant

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Security that come from the New Covenant

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Security that come from the New Covenant

“Letter” - the Law of God

Security that come from the New Covenant

Those who love [obey] your law have perfect security, and there is nothing that can make them fall.”

- Psalm 119:165

Security that come from the New Covenant

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Security that come from the New Covenant

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

- Jeremiah 31:33-34

Security that come from the New Covenant

New relationship:

“I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Security that come from the New Covenant

New obedience:

He says, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it in their hearts.”

Security that come from the New Covenant

True forgiveness:

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.



Real growth that comes from beholding Christ



Real growth that comes from beholding Christ

Behold the Glory of Christ



Real growth that comes from beholding Christ

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (v.18)



Real growth that comes from beholding Christ

“Do you believe your faith? Do you believe this I am telling you? Do you believe a day is coming, really coming, when you will stand before the throne of God, and the angels will whisper together, and say, ‘How like Christ he is’? That is not easy to believe. And yet not to believe is blasphemy. For that, no less than that, is what Christ promises.” - A. J. Gossip



Real growth that comes from beholding Christ