

# PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

## 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3:17-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### HERE IS LIBERTY

*DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Liberty, Law, Love, Grace, Freedom, Sonship, Slavery**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18**

### 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18**  
But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

### Lev. 25:10b

Proclaim **liberty** throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof:

### Is. 61:1

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives,

### Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me....  
to set at **liberty** them that are bruised,

## HERE IS LIBERTY

1.) The Lord is our **Liberator**

v. 17

### THE LORD IS OUR LIBERATOR

1a.) He is our **source**

v. 17a

#### Verse 17a

Now **the Lord is the Spirit**;

Paul reaches back to the main argument;

#### Verse 16

Nevertheless when **one** (*it = the heart*) **turns** to the Lord,  
the veil is taken away.

**The Veil That is Upon an Unbelieving Human Heart  
Can only be removed by the Holy Spirit of God.  
The Holy Spirit – The “Veil-Lifter”**

Now **the Lord is THAT Spirit**; = the one at work in the Old Testament.  
Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; - He is the One and the same Lord of the Old and New  
Covenants. The Spirit of God uses the Old to introduce the New  
and He uses the New to fulfill the Old.

### THE LORD IS OUR LIBERATOR

1b.) He is our **teacher**

v. 17b

#### Verse 17b

and **where the Spirit** of the Lord **is**,

## The Presence of the Holy Spirit is What Qualifies a New Testament Christian – a Christian.

*It's true as well for any "Church" Where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and allowed to work – He does the work.*

### **Illumination and Understanding.**

7 Times in the Book of Revelation Jesus Christ Challenges the church and its pastor to **"Hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"**

#### **John 16:13-14**

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide** you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and **declare it** to you. = **Moriel – God is my Teacher.**

It is the Holy Spirit's work from the moment we are (1) convicted of our unbelief, He shows that if we are left in this condition (2) we remain lost in eternity and that He (3) stands willing and able to rescue any person who's grieved over their sin and shame.

#### **John 16:5-11**

"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'.....

....**6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**Encouragement / Encouragement / Encouragement**

## THE LORD IS OUR LIBERATOR

1c.) He is our freedom

v. 17c

Verse 17c

there is liberty.

**Rom. 8:14-15**

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you did receive the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**Gal. 5:1**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

## HERE IS LIBERTY

2.) The Lord is our Transformer

v. 18a

But we all, with unveiled face,  
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed

## THE LORD IS OUR TRANSFORMER

2a.) He is our revelation

v.18a

Verse 18

But we all, with unveiled face,

"as in a mirror" but not the word to reflect but to "take on" or to "become like".

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror...

## THE LORD IS OUR TRANSFORMER

2b.) He is our illumination

v.18b

## Verse 18

beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,

**pattern, form, outline, image, tracing**

**Beholding Grk.** to present the perfect image of a person. To hold before your eyes the exact presentation. The Bible's presentation of Jesus Christ.

**Not to reflect but rather to behold until the one is consumed by the other. To “stare at” until the subject (that’s us) becomes like the Source (that’s Jesus).**

The beholding **as in a mirror...**

The Mirror is referring to the Word of God, the Bible.  
When we look into the Bible we see more and more of Jesus Christ.

When we meditate or “wait” before God, or sit silent with Him,  
It is in those moments that He begins to show Himself to you.

### Psa. 46:10a

Be still, and know that I am God;

Still Heb. raw-faw'; a compound meaning – (#1) to withdraw away (to move toward the evening), (#2) to be faint, to grow weak, to be consumed.

Know Heb. yaw-dah'; to discover that He is God, to locate that He is God. to uncover that He is God. to see that He is God.

## THE LORD IS OUR TRANSFORMER

**2c.) He is our pattern**

**v.18c**

## Verse 18

are **being transformed**

This means to “take on” the form, shape, resemblance,  
To be a “look-a-like” image of another person (Christ).

It means that we’re to be placing our **hands** where His **hands** are placed.  
It means that we’re to be placing our **feet** where His **feet** are placed.  
It means that we’re to be placing our **eyes** where His **eyes** are placed.

How does this happen? – Because we have an “Unveiled Face” before God.

**This is the awesome truth about real Christianity.**

We are becoming more like Jesus with every face to face look we take  
of Jesus Christ.

### Phil. 1:6

being (*be being – never doubt*) confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a  
good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

**transformed** μεταμορφώω metamorphoo, *met-am-or-fo'-o*; to be going  
through a face to face transformation – a metamorphose, a face to face  
**transfiguration**. – as in the mount of **transfiguration**. Jesus’ glory shone from the  
inside out, not from the outside in. He illuminated Moses & Elijah.

### 2Kings 4:32-35

When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. **33**  
Elisha went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the  
LORD. **34** And he went up and **lay on the child**, and **put his mouth on his mouth**,  
**his eyes on his eyes**, and **his hands on his hands**; and he **stretched himself out on**  
**the child**, and the flesh of the child became warm. **35** He returned and walked  
back and forth in the house, and again went up and **stretched himself out** on him;  
then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

*The more I look into the Word of God,  
The more the Word of God looks into me.*

## HERE IS LIBERTY

**3.) The Lord is our Glorifier**

**v. 18b**

## THE LORD IS OUR GLORIFIER

3a.) He is shaping us

v. 18a

Verse 18

into **the same image**

**image** εἰκών eikon, *i-kone'*; a statue. a copy, a likeness, i.e. (literally), representation, a representative.

**2Cor. 5:20**

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

We're to be walking, living, breathing ambassadors for God  
Welcoming people to change countries, change loyalties,  
change allegiances.

into **the same image**

((was Jesus bound by any particular issue or topic while ministering?))

**no**

**1Cor. 10:23**

All things are lawful for me, (*not sin or sinning*) but not all things are helpful;  
all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

are you using your Christian liberty to be just like Jesus or are you using it to sanction what you want to do?

*The best test of freedom is not in what you are free to do –  
but what you are free not to do.*

## THE LORD IS OUR GLORIFIER

**3b.) He is creating us**

**v. 18b**

**Verse 18**

from **glory to glory**,

we who are Christians know (in our heads) that every situation is of God. What we need to be reminded of is - -

*it's the best possible situation for me.*

I cannot wrap my human mind and heart around this –  
**but faith can and does.**

**Rom. 8:27-28**

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. **:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

## **THE LORD IS OUR GLORIFIER**

**3c.) He is developing us**

**v. 18c**

**Verse 18**

just as **by** the Spirit of the Lord.

**Verse 18** is the climax of this chapter and this last part of the verse is the reason why.

Moses had to ascend the mountain **by climbing up** to meet with God in a fiery cloud of shadowy fear // // The Christian on the other hand - turns his thoughts upon the LORD Jesus Christ - effortlessly and instantly we have the face of Almighty God.

**1 Cor. 6:14**

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

**Eph. 1:18-19**

the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
**19** and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

**HERE IS LIBERTY – TAKE IT.**

Do You Want Peace, Joy, Hope, Unity, Freedom, Courage,  
Righteousness, Power, Endurance.

**Will You Today Respond To Christ's Offer?**

**>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<**  
*Come Forward for Prayer*

*End of Study*

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