

Last Sunday Pastor Jim taught us that we are here to spread the Good News. We are to be a witness to the world for Christ. And Paul might be showing us that very thing in 18. Look at the following translations:

1. *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 from the Lord, the Spirit. NASB*
2. *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. New NIV*
3. *And 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. Old NIV*

Here comes the puzzler:

Beholding: katoptrizomai (present tense) continually beholding. (Middle voice) you yourself look in the mirror (no one does it for you). Gazing in a mirror as in contemplating...is not a quick glance. This same word can be translated _____.

Go back to Moses coming down from the mountain. What was it the people saw on his face? Was he reflecting the radiance of God?

"We are transformed into the Lord's likeness by seeing it, not by reflecting it." Charles Hodge

How can a New Covenant believer reflect God's glory if he has not been in the presence of God's glory?

So, are we to *behold as in a mirror*...or are we to *reflect as a mirror*?

Series: Genesis... Continued

Title: Without Masks

Topic: Beholding to reflect



Exodus 34: 29

Observations:

- Moses did not know his face was radiant.
- There is no record of his face shining after his first 40 days on Mt. Sinai.
- How long Moses used the veil is unknown. It is not mentioned for the next 38 years of his leadership.

Exodus 33: 7

Both Moses and the Israelites had "encounters" with God.

Lesson:

Paul is in the midst of a text whereby he is showing the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. We pick up the text where Paul is still explaining that very thing.

2 Cor 3:12:

Observations of verses 13-17:

- The veil Moses wore kept people from seeing the radiance fade between times when he was not in a meeting with God.
- Since that time, a veil prevents Israelites from seeing the Truth in Scripture.
- Only when people accept Christ, the veil is removed.

We can look into our Bible, with nothing to mask it, and see the glory of our Lord. And in so doing we can be transformed more and more into the image of Christ.

Verse 18:

- *We all:* Christians, people who are saved.

- *Unveiled face:* to uncover, to reveal, to reveal something to someone, to disclose the character of someone.

- *Beholding:* (present tense) _____ beholding. (Middle voice) you yourself look in the mirror (no one does it for you). Gazing in a mirror as in _____...is not a quick glance.

“Beholding is becoming. This is the only Christian way to change behavior so that it honors God. We change because we have seen a superior beauty and worth and excellence.” J Piper

- *Being transformed:* metamorphoo from *metá* = denotes change of place or condition + *morphoo* = to shape the outward to be a true representation of the inward nature.

The verb morphoo does not refer to what is outward and changeable, but to what is inward and real and so it describes something that produces an outward expression which proceeds from and is truly representative of one's inward _____ and _____.

God transforms us to the point where we little by little become more and more like His Son.

In this passage metamorphoo is in the *present* tense which indicates that this transformation is an ongoing process. In addition, the *passive* voice indicates that the power that produces this transformation is an external Source, the _____.

To be transformed describes a change on the outside that comes from the inside. Paul is describing an outward change in the _____ and _____ of the believer, which truly is actually representing his or her inward spiritual condition.

“God loves us too much to let us stay as we are.” unknown

“So, as you look at the face of Jesus Christ, as you look into the Scripture and see Christ here and there and everywhere on the pages of Scripture, God becomes clearer and you know your God, and you know His character, and you know who you worship and who you can trust and why you can trust Him.” JMac

“God acts on us as we are Christ-focused. We are being transformed into the same image, that is into the very image of Christ. How do you become like Christ? By being consumed and preoccupied with Him. And as you gaze at Him, you are being transformed into the very same image from one level of glory to the next. And frankly, you could add as many glories as you want and you wouldn't obscure or alter the point.” JMac

“There aren't just two steps, from glory to glory. The idea is from glory to glory to glory to glory – just put the word “glory” in front of an infinite number of mirrors. And this is done by the Holy Spirit as you focus on Christ, as you're preoccupied with Christ.” JMac

“In fact, the veil, in verse 15, is still over the heart of everyone who reads the Law of Moses but doesn't know about Christ. But verse 16 says, “Whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” We see God in blazing glory in the face of Jesus Christ. All you need to know about God, all God wants disclose about Himself, all the beauty of His character; all His attributes, communicable and incommunicable; all His love, and loyalty, and mercy, and grace, and power, and wisdom; and all His compassion and sympathy and care; all His saving purpose; all His ability to supply everything we could ever need; all things necessary to save us, all things necessary to empower us, all things necessary to console and comfort us, all things necessary to equip us, all things necessary to prepare us for service and for glory, everything we need is unveiled in Jesus Christ.” JMac

Verse 18 is not in the Bible just so we can feel good and understand how and what God does to us. As we read Scripture, we are (look above).....