

**"GLORY TO GLORY"****Date:** March 10, 2019**Speaker:** Pastor Danny Clinton**KESSID****SCRIPTURE + SPIRIT****Start by sharing what's going to happen at the end of service...**

*(Vs) 2nd Cor. 3:18 - "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."*

- With those few words — "from glory to glory"— Paul sums up our entire Christian life.
- There is a great deal of content packed into those few words...
- It's actually so important that Paul labors at great length, from here, through the end of chapter 5, to open his readers' eyes to this great truth.

**The same Greek word for "glory" is used twice in the phrase *from glory to glory*, yet each usage refers to something different...**

- The first "glory" is that of...The Old Covenant — The Law of Moses
- While the second is that of...The New Covenant - The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**The Old Covenant — The Law of Moses**

- The Old Covenant was given to Moses directly from God...

*(Vs) Exodus 3:18 - "And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."*

- This is the root of our Christian faith as "It's the glory we're coming from."
- Paul adds this... (Vs) Rom. 7:12 - "So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."
- But, like the stone it was written on, the Law was inflexible and absolute, applying to all Israelites without much regard for individual circumstances.

*(Vs) Heb. 10:28 - "Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses."*

- Basically: The Law was an external force to control behavior.
- Another way to see the Law would be as a "Temporary Guardian" until something better came along.

*(Vs) Galatians 3:23-25 – “Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian...”*

- God’s original Law was Cold and written in stone. It was put in place for the goal of redemption and sanctification on earth.
- And yet, even stone, despite its strength, is earthly and will eventually wear away... making space for something new!

### **The New Covenant – The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

- Paul is proclaiming that something has forever changed.
- From the Old Glory of the Law to this New Glory of the Gospel, which far surpasses the Old in every way.

### **This New Covenant forgives us of our sin and gives us life.**

*(Vs) John 6:63 – “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”*

- AND! “The New Covenant is written on believers’ hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

*(Vs) Jeremiah 31:33 – “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.”*

- Meaning, that now our obedience to God springs up from within us by God-given desires rather than by threats of legal punishment.

**“In place of a cold set of writings as a guide for pleasing God, we now have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit making their home with us, fellowshiping in loving intimacy, teaching us everything we must know and do.”**

*(Vs) John 14:23 – Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*

- This Gospel Truth is as permanent, eternal, and spiritual as God Himself, rather than temporary and earthly...

*(Vs) John 16:23 – “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.”*

**Paul is intent on directing Christians to focus on the spiritual glory of the New Covenant rather than physical glory of the Old.**

- He compared the two types of glory by recalling how when Moses received the first laws of God, he absorbed and reflected God’s glory for a time after being in His presence.

*(Vs) Exodus 34:29-30 – “When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony...”*

- **Note:** Though Moses’ glow had a spiritual cause, there was nothing spiritual within him that caused it... any person, regardless of his relationship with God, could see the glow on Moses’ face, not so with the glory of the New Covenant.

*(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 3:3 – “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.”*

- This Letter of Christ can only be read with light from a believer’s eyes.
- This is what Paul is describing when he says... (Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 4:6 – “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

**Then as we move from glory to glory, there’s something else about the glory of the New Covenant that Christians must understand...**

- It is the supernatural power to transform us.
- Which brings us to God’s ultimate purpose and destination for every believer, to transform us into the image of his own beloved Son...

*(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 3:18 – “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.”*

**Lastly, before he finishes with the topic of being transformed from glory to glory, Paul presents yet one more astonishing claim:**

*(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

- This is the invitation the Lord makes to all Christians... to have our lives radically transformed here and now, by opening our eyes to see the glorious journey He is taking us on “from glory to glory...”