

Confidence Through Christ

Verse 1: Are We Beginning to Commend Ourselves Again?

2nd Corinthians 5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

Verse 5: Not that We are Sufficient in Ourselves...

“God made the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.” – Martin Luther

Verse 6: Not Of the Letter... For the Letter Kills

- “Letter” in **verses 1 – 5:** *epistolē*, meaning delivered letters or written epistles
- “Letter: in **verse 6:** *gramma*, meaning the writings, referring to the old commandments

Paul has now Gone Through Five “Not, But” Statements

2:17 - we are NOT... peddlers of God's word
BUT ...men of sincerity

3:3a - you are a letter from Christ... written NOT with ink,
BUT with the Spirit of the living God

3:3b - you are a letter from Christ... NOT on tablets of stone,
BUT on tablets of human hearts

3:5 - NOT that we are sufficient in ourselves...,
BUT our sufficiency is from God

3:6 - who has made us... ministers of a new covenant, NOT of the letter
BUT of the Spirit

Verses 7 – 11: A series of “If Statements” for Purposes of Contrast

- **Verse 7:** Now if the ministry of death...
- **Verse 9:** For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation...
- **Verse 11:** For if what was being brought to an end came with glory...

Consider The Comparisons

The Law	The Gospel
The Old Covenant	The New Covenant
The Letter Kills	The Spirit Gives Life
The Ministry of Death	The Ministry of the Spirit
Carved in Letters on Stone	Written on Human Hearts
The Ministry of Condemnation	The Ministry of Righteousness
Glory Being Brought to an End	Permanent Glory



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Exodus 34:4 – 8, 29 - 35

4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

31 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them.

32 Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai.

33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

34 Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded,

35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

John1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Run, John, Run

*Run, John, run, the law commands
But gives us neither feet nor hands,*

*Far better news the gospel brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings*

- attributed to John Bunyan (1628-1688)

