

# The Mystery of Divine Glory

## Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> 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.

### From the Introduction:

As the apostle presents these truths to his converts, he presents to them the struggle of the world in accepting them (the truths). It is a struggle rooted in a hardened mind that is unwilling to accept the truth that results in a veiled vision of the freedom of God. Only through the in-working of the Holy Spirit can the veil be lifted and freedom experienced.

**Outline:**

- 1) The world is \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 14)
  - a) The world's blindness is the result of a \_\_\_\_\_ mind.
  - b) The world has chosen to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth of the glory of Christ.
  
- 2) The veil is \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 16)
  - a) The removal of the veil brings the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's glory and transformation into the once hardened life.
  - b) Only in \_\_\_\_\_ is the veil removed.
  
- 3) The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 17)
  - a) The Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ brings liberty to the hardened mind.
  - b) It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to all.

## **Remember:**

<sup>23</sup> “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (1 Cor. 10:23-24)

## **Reflect:**

“God just doesn’t throw a life preserver to a drowning person. He goes to the bottom of the sea, and pulls a corpse from the bottom of the sea, takes him up on the bank, breathes into him the breath of life and makes him alive.” – R. C. Sproul

## **Seek:**

- 1) The apostle Paul notes that only through Christ can the veil which hardens the mind be lifted. This veil causes us to ignore the truth, and it is the work of the Holy Spirit that reveals it. Think back to when the Holy Spirit revealed the truth of God’s glory to you. Take a moment to share with the group the events surrounding the “lifting” of your veil.

## Share:

- 1) Paul states, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” Mounce states, “true freedom is the freedom to obey God and to serve others.”<sup>1</sup> Share how you “are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.” (2 Cor. 3:18)

## Serve:

- 2) When we experience the Mystery of Divine Glory in our lives we are called to spread the gospel truth to those whose minds are hardened. In what manner might you use the liberty given you to honor God and reveal His truth to others?

## Pray:

- This week pray the Lord will make His genuine love evident to others through you.

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<sup>1</sup> William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 273.