We Are Ministers of A New Covenant

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Key Verse: 3:6

1. Read verses 1-3. What problem did Paul touch in the Corinthians' attitude toward him? (1) Why do people need letters of recommendation? What are the characteristics of it? (2b,3) How is it different from human letters of recommendation?

2. Read v. 4-6. What was the source of Paul's confidence? (4) Why do we need this confidence? [Note: The word "competent" in verse 5 is also translated as "sufficient," (KJV) "adequate," (NAS) or "capable" (TEV).] Who makes us competent as ministers of a new covenant? (6) What does "new covenant" mean in contrast with "old covenant"? (Jer 31:31-34; Lk 22:20)

3. Read v. 7-11. In what respect was the ministry of the Law glorious? (7; Ex 34:29,30) By comparison and contrast, how is the ministry of the Spirit more glorious? (7-11) In light of this, how should we view our gospel ministry?

4. Read v. 12-18. How did Paul use the metaphor of the veil to describe obstacles that prevent one from seeing the Lord's glory? (12-13) Why were the minds of the Israelites made dull? (14,15) When is the veil taken away? (14b,16) What blessings are given to anyone who turns to the Lord? (17-18)