

THE SOURCE OF BOLD PREACHING, WITNESSING
II COR. 3:12-18

Introduction:

- A. Paul believed that a mature knowledge of Jesus Christ gave hope.
 - 1. "seeing then that we have such hope."
 - a. Hope based on one's understanding of the law and Christ.

- B. He believed that this hope gave boldness.
 - 1. "we use great plainness of speech."
 - 2. plainness = parrhesia - the speaking of all one thinks, free-spokenness, frankness in speaking, the candid, confident boldness of a joyous heart.

I. MOSES DID NOT USE THIS BOLDNESS. V13

- A. "and not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished."
 - 1. stedfastly = atenizo - to gaze upon intently.
 - 2. abolished = katargeo - to make useless.
 - 3. From the time Moses received the law his face began to shine, but with diminishing brightness. He took it off to face God, but put it on to face the people lest they see it diminishing in brightness.

- B. This was not true of Paul.
 - 1. What truth he learned would never be supplanted.
 - 2. There would never be another covenant.

II. ISRAEL'S HEART WAS HARDENED. V14

- A. "but their minds were blinded."
 - 1. blinded = poroo - to petrify, to blunt the feelings, to harden the heart.

- B. "for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament." The veil not removed.
 - 1. The Jews of Pauls day could comprehend the truths no better than they who saw Moses.
 - 2. It is not seeing Moses but hearing God when Moses speaks that counts.

- C. "Which veil is done away in Christ."
 - 1. To understand Christ is to see Moses without the veil.
 - a. His suffering.
 - b. His name, Jesus.

III. ISRAEL'S HEART IS STILL HARDENED. V15

- A. They did not respond to Jesus.
 - 1. Matt. 13:13-15.

- B. They did not respond to Paul.
 - 1. Rom 10:L1-3.

- C. Moses and the prophets were sufficient.
 - 1. Luke 16:29-31.

IV. THE VEIL SHALL BE LIFTED. V16

- A. Isa. 25:6-8.
 - 1. Israel will be regathered (has been).
 - 2. Rom. 11:23.
 - 3. Rom. 11:25-26.

- B. Israel will be reborn and enter the Millennial as believers.

- C. The Lord is that Spirit that will accomplish all.
 - 1. v17.

2. liberty = eleutheria = freedom to go where one will.
3. Isaiah 61:1-2.
4. Liberty from the commandments.

V. WE DO NOT HAVE VEILED TRUTH.

A. We are not as Israel. v18.

1. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord."
2. open = anakalupto - to unveil.
3. face = prosopon - the parts around the eye; the face, countenance.
4. We can, with unveiled face look upon our God, (God's truth) as Moses did.
 - a. Not children of Israel but as Moses.

B. "are changed into the same image from glory to glory."

1. changed = metamorphoo - to change one's form, to transform, be transfigured.
 - a. Matt. 17:2 Jesus was transfigured. [Peter, James and John.]
 - b. Rom. 12:2 "and be not conformed...."
2. eikon = denotes not only the image but also the pattern, the original, to be like.
3. Those who look upon God today are unveiled, the veil is taken away in Christ, they then are changed from one glorious thing to another glorious thing that never fades but is ever brighter.

C. "even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

1. The Spirit of the Lord does the changing from glory to glory.
2. We will wait for the "great change to come."

VI. THIS "SHINING METAMORPHIS" IS OUR GREATEST NEED.

A. It will change us.

1. It is a constant changing.
2. God never changes from good to bad.

B. It will change others.

1. Our change will implant desire for change.
2. What is the greatest criticism?
 - a. Still do as lost do!