

The Glory of God and the Gospel

2 Corinthians 3:18-4:6

For most of us it is the most natural thing in the world to want to share good news. We love to tell others about a new job, or our team winning, or a new baby, or a fun new hobby. It is possible to feel the same way about sharing the good news of the gospel. This is not to say that it is always easy to share the gospel. It's not. But if we are convinced that what we have experienced through the gospel is the most glorious experience we've ever had, we will be inclined to want to talk to others about it. And so let's consider the glory of God and the gospel.

Opening Discussion: What is some good news you heard this week that you'd like to share?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1 - 4:6

1. How does Paul contrast the glory of the new covenant with the glory of the old covenant (3:7-18)?
2. What does it mean that we are "beholding the glory of the Lord" (3:18)?
3. How does Paul describe the transformation process (v. 3:18)?

Steve said:

What confidence do we have that weak and inconsistent people like us can become increasingly glorious?" Paul tells us in the last line: "For this comes from the Lord who is **the Spirit**." This is one of the staggering realities of the new covenant. If you have entered into the new covenant through faith in Jesus, the same Spirit that hovered over the surface of the deep at creation, and the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now indwells **you** and is transforming you, making you increasingly glorious. This is what you should expect and experience!

4. That the Spirit of God dwells within each believer to bring about transformation is an aspect of the glory of God that we see in the gospel. How should this affect how we think about sharing the gospel with others?

5. What perspectives and attitudes does Paul express about how he and his associates approached sharing the gospel with others (4:1-6)?
6. How should the fact that Satan is actively working to keep people from understanding the glory of the gospel (4:3-4) affect how we approach sharing the good news?

Steve said:

Our long-term strategy for sharing Christ should involve becoming so passionate about the glory of God that we can't keep quiet about it. This is true whether you have a dramatic conversation experience like Paul did or whether you came to Christ early in life and can't really remember a time when you didn't love and trust Jesus. This is true whether you are more extroverted or introverted. People who are passionate about something find themselves talking about it with the people they care about the most. Long-term, our passion for the glory of God will make us people who naturally take risks and share Christ with others.

7. What does your current engagement in sharing the gospel reveal to you about how passionate you are about the glory of God?
8. What truths in this passage would be helpful to dwell upon in the coming days to help increase your passion for the glory of God?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted



Share Your Story – One of the models we learn in Rooted about sharing the good news is the BLESS model (Begin with prayer; Listen; Eat together; Serve; Share the good news). Who do you want to BLESS? And what is one step in the BLESS model you can take with them this week?