

2 CORINTHIANS 3

NLET

PAUL PURPORTS THAT THE CORINTHIAN DISCIPLES
THEMSELVES ARE LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FOR HIM
AND TIMOTHY

1 Are we, for ourselves, again beginning to recommend ourselves?

*It is otherwise.*¹ We do not have need – as certain ones *do* – of letters of commendations to you or commendations² from you.

2 You, *for your parts*, are

- the letter *that is* ours, having been lastingly written in the hearts *that are* ours, becoming known and being read by all people,
- 3 ones who are being manifested that you are
 - ✦ a letter of an anointed One,
 - ✦ ones having been rendered service by us,
 - ✦ a letter having been lastingly written –
 - not with ink; rather,
 - by Spirit of God, One who is continually living,
 - not on tablets made of stone, rather,
 - on tablets made of hearts – *that is*, fleshly ones.

PAUL INDICATES THE SOURCE FOR THE COMPETENCE
THAT HE AND TIMOTHY HAVE

4 Now, we are having confidence such as this by agency of the Anointed One in reference to the God.

5 *It is* NOT that we are competent from ourselves³ to reckon anything as out of ourselves.

Rather, the competence *that is* our *is* from the God 6 Who also made us competent *to be holy* servants of a new testament, not consisting of a written character but consisting of a spirit. For, the Written Character keeps on condemning to death. Now, the Spirit makes alive.

PAUL COMPARES THE GLORY OF THE LAW WHICH WAS
GIVEN THOUGH MOSES TO THE GLORY OF THE EXCELLENT
ANNOUNCEMENT

WHICH WAS GIVEN THROUGH THE APOSTLES

7 Now, if the Service of the Death in connection with written characters having been lastingly engraved on stones was made to come about in connection with glory, with the result that the sons of Israel were not able to stare at the face of Moses on account of the glory of the face *that was* his – *that is*, the *Service of the Death* which is being left unemployed, 8 how shall the Service of the Spirit not rather be in connection with glory?!

9 For, if the Service⁴ of the Condemnation was a glory, by much more shall the Service of the Righteousness be over and above in connection with glory.

10 For, even the thing which was lastingly glorified was NOT lastingly glorified in connection with this – *that is*, in its turn – on account of the *higher* glory which surpasses it.

11 For, if the thing which is being abolished by means of a glory, by much more *is* the thing which remains in a state of glory.

12 So then, being ones who have such a hope, with great outspokenness we yearn with great boldness.

13 And, *we yearn* not like Moses. He was placing a veil over the face *that was* his own⁵, so that the sons of Israel would not pay attention to the end of that which was ceasing.

14 Rather, the minds *that were* theirs were petrified. For, until today this same veil upon the reading of the Old Testament remains, not being unveiled. Because, in connection with an anointed One it is being abolished.

¹ 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the particle translated as 'It is otherwise.' here instead of 'Or,'.

² 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'commendations' here.

³ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'we are competent from

ourselves' here. On the basis of 3% the NU has 'from ourselves we are competent'.

⁴ 95.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'the Service' (a nominative noun phrase) here instead of 'by the Service' (a dative noun phrase).

⁵ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'his own' here instead of 'his'.

15 Still, until today at the time when Moses⁶ is being read aloud⁷ a veil lies outstretched upon the heart that is theirs. 16 Now, at the time when ever *a person* might turn toward YaHWeH⁸, the veil which surrounds *the person* is taken away.

17 Now, the Lord is the Spirit.

Now, where the Spirit of YaHWeH *is*, liberty *is* THERE⁹!

18 Now, we all, *for our parts* –

- with faces having lastingly been unveiled,
- ones who are beholding for themselves the glory of YaHWeH as in a mirror – *that is*, the same likeness, keep on being transformed from glory to glory, just as from YaHWeH Spirit!

⁶ 60% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the spelling 'Moses' here instead of an alternate spelling 'Mo-ouses'.

⁷ 88% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'is being read aloud' (a present, active, subjunctive verb) here instead of 'might be being read aloud' (a present, passive, subjunctive verb).

⁸ 'YaHWeH' – This is a translation of the un-articulated Greek word Κύριον which is typically translated as 'Lord'. However, in

the New Testament this was the word used by many apostles to refer to the great four-letter Tetra-grammaton which referred to eternally existing God in the Old Testament. This is especially evident when this unarticulated Greek noun is used to translate Old Testament passages in which this great name appears.

⁹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adverb 'THERE' here. It is capitalized because in Greek it is placed forward for emphasis.