

## 2 Corinthians Class Schedule

3/12/2017	3:1-3	Christ's life & ministry is manifested through epistles of Christ
3/19/2017	3:4-6	Christ's life & ministry is in His sufficiency, not ours
3/26/2017	3:7-11	Christ's life & ministry is not legal, but spiritual & glorious
4/2/2017	3:12-16	Christ's life & ministry is the revealing of the glory of Christ - part 1
4/9/2017	3:17-18	Christ's life & ministry is the revealing of the glory of Christ - part 2
4/16/2017		no class on resurrection Sunday
4/23/2017	4:1-4	Christ's life & ministry and the glorious gospel
4/30/2017	4:5-7	Christ's life & ministry's power is from God
5/7/2017	4:8-10	God ordains trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 1
5/14/2017	4:11-13	God ordains trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 2
5/21/2017	4:14-16	God ordains trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 3
5/28/2017	4:17-18	God ordains trials & suffering to reveal His glory part 4

<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendor *and* from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. (Amplified Bible)

## The context of 2 Cor 3:18

v:16 says “whenever a person turns to the Lord”

- speaks of our salvation

v:17 says “where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty”

- speaks of our liberty (freedom) in Christ

v:18 says “we all are being transformed”

- speaks of inward change that God is doing  
as we behold Him in the Word

## Overview of 2 Cor 3:18\*

we all are being transformed - main idea of the verse

with unveiled face, - our condition

into the same image – results/goal of the transformation

beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,  
- how it is accomplished

from glory to glory, - increasing effect of the transformation

just as from the Lord, the Spirit. – who is making the change

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**But** - *de* - lit: now - frequently denoting a transition

**subject** – **we all** (*pas* – every one, none excluded)

**verb** - **are being transformed** - *metamorpheō* - to change into another form (*meta*, “implying change”, and *morphēo*, “form”) – *morpheo* - lays stress on the inward change for believers (present, indicative, passive)

present tense – continuous action in present

indicative – statement of fact

passive – the subject (**we all**) receives the action of the verb

only used 4 times in the NT – translated “transformed” or “transfigured”

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- Our inward change or transformation is a continuous process
- We are not making the change - God is changing us
- This transformation process is a reality in our life

**Christ was transformed!** – see Matt 17:1-2 & Mark 9:2-3

- His internal glory was manifested outwardly
- He was not being changed inwardly – **Why?**

because He (Christ) is the express image of God - Col 1:15

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## What is the inward change in the believer's life ?

- God has crucified our old man (all who we were in Adam) with Christ - Rom 6:6
- Our old man can never be changed & God did all He is going to do with the old man – Rom 8:3
- God is changing our inner (new) man which manifests itself outwardly - see Col 3:10; Eph 3:16
- But positionally we have Christ's life – see John 17:22

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\* adapted from Hal Molloy's 2004 class 8



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### Moses with a veiled face vs. we with unveiled face

- God's glory reflected in Moses's face was fading once removed from source
- Moses veiled his face to hide the fading glory
- Moses's glory was external & temporary

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### What we have in Christ

- The believer's face is unveiled to show the ever increasing glory of Christ as we behold Him
- The verb tense of unveiled (perfect, passive) tells us that this is a past completed action with abiding results in the present and with the passive voice it tells us that God has removed it in Christ (v:14)
- The source of our glory is Christ's glory which is internal & permanent
- The source cannot be removed since we cannot be removed from Christ in our position

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“into the same image” tells us the goal of transformation

What is this image ?

**image** - *eikon* - resemblance, likeness; the word involves the two ideas of representation and manifestation  
see Rom 8:29, Col 1:15

- The word “**same**” tells us that this is Christ’s image
- Christ’s image is His essence and attributes

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How do we get transformed ?

It is - “*beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,*”

*beholding as in a mirror* - katoptrizō - from katoptron, "a mirror" (*kata*, "down," *ops*, "an eye or sight") - in the middle voice, "to behold intensely what is being reflected"

notice: that we are beholding “the glory of the Lord” !

What is the glory of the Lord?

two aspects of “the glory of Lord”

- The blinding light of His presence
- The glorious nature of His life and His ministry

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**glory** - *doxa* - It is used of the nature and acts of God in self-manifestation, i.e., what He essentially is and does

**What can we behold with our eyes that reflects the totality of Christ's glory ?**

- Beholding creation doesn't do it
- Beholding believers doesn't do it
- Only the word of God does it as the Spirit of God reveals Christ's glory - John 16:13-15

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Now: this is not the only place that Scripture talks about beholding the glory of the Lord – another key verse is given below:

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see (lit: **behold**) My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Who are those “whom You have given Me”?

What does it mean “to be with Me where I am”?

the purpose: so that they may see (lit: **behold**) My glory



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**so what's the difference:** between “beholding (*katoptrizo*)” vs. “beholding (*theoreo*)” \*

- **2 Cor 3:18** - “beholding (*katoptrizō*)” - the emphasis is on beholding the objective truth concerning Christ through the written word
- **John 17:24** - “beholding (*theoreo*)” - “to be a spectator” (English = theater) the emphasis is on beholding with a personal interest and intimacy

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so what's the difference: (cont.)

- It is making the objective beholding (*katoptrizō*) a subjective beholding (*theoreo*)
- Christ desires to have a close intimacy with us by our beholding Him (objective and then subjective)
- The apostles beheld Him on earth (John 1:14)
- We (believers) behold Him in heaven (John 17:24)

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## from glory to glory

As we behold Christ in the word, God is transforming our new man conditionally to who He is positionally (the glory of Christ) see John 17:22; Rom 8:29; Gal 4:19\*

### A. God's process:

- God is revealing the Glory of Christ to us via His word
- As we behold Christ's glory by faith, God shares Christ's glory with us "from glory to glory" - in ever increasing amounts of Christ's glory

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A. God's process: (cont.)

- Then God manifests Christ's glory through us as His representative to reveal Christ's glory to others
- This process will be completed when we see Him face to face (see verse below)

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

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## B. God's purpose:

is never to hide His glory but always to make it known, e.g.

- God's glory revealed to Moses on the Mount  
- Ex 33:18-23; 34:5-9
- Christ's glory revealed in His transfiguration  
(metamorphoo) - Mt 17:1,2
- To manifest the glory of Christ through you & me from  
glory to glory - 2 Cor 3:1-18

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just as from the Lord, the Spirit

[for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit (Amp)

we saw in verse 17 that “where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty (freedom)” now we see that He is the agent in the transformation process!

two things about the Holy Spirit’s ministry

1. to reveal the glory of Christ as we behold (*katoptrizo*) Him via the word - John 16:13-15
2. to be the living link between us & Christ as we behold (*theoreo*) Him in the heavenlies and experience the wonderful intimacy with Christ