



# *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*

*2 Cor 3:1-3, Christ's Life & Ministry is Manifested through Epistles of Christ*

- *2 Corinth 3:1 – “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?”*
  - Why does Paul *begin* by asking this question?
    - What was the practice at the time, or even today?
    - *Commendation* – are they worthy, what are there credentials, **are we all on the same page?**
      - *Acts 9:1,2 - Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*
      - *Acts 18:27 - And when he (Apollos) desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;*
      - *2 Corinth 10:8 - or even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed*



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- *2 Corinth 10:18 - For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.*
- *Matt 28:18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
- Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ is Paul’s and today our commendation!
- ***2 Corinth 3:2 – “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;”***
  - *And we are (present indicative) epistles, or letters or messages of Christ!*
  - *written (perfect participle) in our hearts,*
  - *known (ginoska) and read (present passive) by all men*
    - *2 Corinth 8:23 - If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are **messengers** of the churches, the **glory of Christ**.*
      - Hal – ‘And we may be the only *epistle* people ever read’.
      - » And we are not dead letters, with no address.



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- *1 Corinth 9:2 - If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*
- ***2 Corinth 3:3 – “clearly (for as much as ye are manifestly declared) you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”***
  - Notice that again we are declared as *epistles*.
  - This is profound truth; but what does it mean?
  - Compare what’s *written on the tablets of stone vs. our hearts?*
    - Describe what’s written on the *tablets of stone?*
    - Is there anything wrong with what’s *written on the tablets of stone?*
      - » Was it *written with ink?*
      - » No, with *finger of God – Ex 31:18*
    - How do we respond to what’s *written on stone?*



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- » How do we measure this response?
- And how permanent is it?
  - *2 Corinth 3:7 - But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,*
    - » Has God's glory changed?
- What's written in our hearts?
  - Is it *Jer 31: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their **hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people*
  - *Rom 7:23 - But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*
  - *1 Tim 1:19 - knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,*
- And we are that sweet savor of Christ to the saved and unsaved – 2  
*Corinth 2:15*