

Through the Veil; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16

I. Veil

- A. Moses put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from seeing the glow after each time he was in the presence of God
- B. Exodus 34:34–35 (ESV); ³⁴ Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵ the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.
- C. The Mosaic law ended — God told Moses it would (Deuteronomy 18:18), God told Jeremiah it would (Jeremiah 31:31ff)
 1. Paul compared the fading of Moses' glowing face to the ending of the law
 2. 2 Corinthians 3:12–13 (ESV); ¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.
- D. The veil was there to keep Israel from seeing the glory
 1. Sight is one of our primary senses
 2. We rely on it to walk, to touch, to determine harm, etc.
 3. How many of us have stepped on legos in the middle of the night?
 4. We create understandings by what we see even though they may be incorrect
 - a) I've read two or three news stories this week alone about people who have been doing their job or going about their lives and someone called the police
 - b) I've also read several stories about people using the current climate of hostility toward police officers to their advantage only to be caught by video
 5. Sight is an important sense in our determination of events that surround us
 6. We often let our sense of sight blind us — we put a veil over our heart

II. Seeing the World

- A. In Acts 28 Paul had finally made it to Rome and was speaking with the Jewish people about the Messiah
- B. Acts 28:27 (ESV); For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'
- C. Paul is quoting from Isaiah — He is saying that even though they can see, they do not see — They have put a veil over their heart
- D. Paul understands this because he had that very same veil over his heart
 1. Acts 8:3 (ESV); But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.
 2. And God actually blinded him to make him see
 3. Acts 9:4–9 (ESV); ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
 4. Saul believed and obeyed the Lord — and after those three days he was united in Jesus' death through baptism
 5. Paul saw more when he was blind than he ever did when he could see
- E. Our vision can be exactly like Saul's (of Tarsus)
 1. We see things the way we want
 2. Whatever gives us the most pleasure — money, power, fame, etc.
 3. We allow the temptations of Satan to blind us to the reality of Jesus

4. 1 John 2:16 (ESV); For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
 - F. We let Satan’s temptations become the veil over our hearts
- III. Seeing Jesus
- A. 2 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV); But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.
 - B. There are many allusions to this in the Bible
 1. Mark 15:38 (ESV); And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
 2. Hebrews 6:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
 3. Hebrews 10:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
 4. God removed the separation between Himself and us, yet we put our own veil over our hearts
 - C. I want us to see Jesus through the eyes of a first century Israelite
 1. John 4:46-54
 2. John 5:3-9
 3. John 6:8-14
 - D. We must see Jesus the way He is given to us in the Scriptures — this is the way God wanted us to
 1. Some people say, “He was a good man that did good things”
 2. Some say He was indeed a prophet, but the The Messiah
 3. If you read the Bible for any length of time you will quickly see that either Jesus is who He says He is, or He is a complete fraud
 4. Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses and brought in a completely new covenant
 5. No longer do we dwell on what is physical — like animal sacrifices — but we dwell on what is spiritual (God is Spirit)
 6. The world is physical — the Kingdom is spiritual
 - E. Jesus is shown to us as the Messiah (the anointed one)
 - F. John 1:29 (ESV); The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
- IV. Through The Veil
- A. 2 Corinthians 3:16–18 (ESV); ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - B. Turn to the Lord and remove the veil that covers your heart!
 - C. See Jesus and not the world