

Living Letters of Recommendation

Introduction: The strongest proof of God's blessing upon a ministry is the changed lives as a result of it. The people of Corinth who got saved and left their wicked ways were Paul's living letters of recommendation. These living letters are:

- I. Written by the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 3:1-6)
  - A. Apparently the false teachers were arriving in Corinth with \_\_\_\_\_ of endorsement.
  - B. The Corinthian believers were led to the Lord by Paul so they already \_\_\_\_\_ him and his ministry.
  - C. Every believer is a \_\_\_\_\_ letter for all to read of God's transforming power.
  - D. The work of God is first and foremost \_\_\_\_\_ through the Spirit working in our lives.
  - E. Paul realized that he was just an \_\_\_\_\_ God used to bring salvation to the lost.
  - F. The external system of the Old Testament Law only brought \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 27:26; Ro. 8:3; Ro. 3:20; Gal. 2:16; 3:24).
- II. Written in \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 3:7-11)
  - A. Paul now compares the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant systems.
  - B. The Old Testament Law was given by God and was very \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 19:16-20).
  - C. If the system Moses brought was glorious, how much \_\_\_\_\_ then the system brought down by Christ (Heb. 8:6-10)?
  - D. What a privilege to be partakers of this "glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ."
- III. Written with \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 3:12-18)
  - A. Though dealing with deep spiritual truths, the message is still \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. The message of Christ should never be cloudy, but instead very \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. As a nation, Israel is \_\_\_\_\_ to the gospel message.
  - D. It is as their \_\_\_\_\_ turn to the Lord that they will understand.
  - E. Receiving Christ brings the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ one could ever wish for (Gal. 5:1).
  - F. Following God's Word does not place you in \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:45).
  - G. Being a living letter is a \_\_\_\_\_ process—constantly becoming more like Christ.
  - H. "As we go to the Bible, we see the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ in all His splendor. We do not yet see Him face to face, but only as mirrored in the Word" (MacDonald).
  - I. "Do you want to be Christlike? Then spend time \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus" (McGee).

Conclusion: "Ink, of course, is subject to fading, erasure, and destruction, but when the Spirit of God writes in human hearts, it is forever" (MacDonald).