

# The Harvester



## Preparing Souls

## To Serve The Lord



Volume 38

July 2018

Number 12

## Why Our Ministry Is More Glorious Than Moses'

By Brian R. Kenyon

Sometimes people think Bible characters were super-human. That is, they think the heroes about whom we read in Scripture had some special powers built in their natures that they were able to do incredible deeds that people today cannot do. However, with the exception of the miraculous powers some were given, these men and women were just like us! They had strengths and weaknesses, but when they trusted in God and in His word, they were successful! Sometimes preachers today think their ministries cannot be as successful as Paul's. While some of the resulting numbers may not be the same as Paul's numbers, success in ministry is not always measured by numbers. All preachers today can be encouraged that their ministries are the same as Paul's glorious ministry, which was better than Moses' ministry!

Paul said that God "made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Cor. 3:6). Then Paul gave reasons why the ministry in which he labored was far surpassing in glory than the ministry of Moses (cf. Ex. 34:29-35).

Paul used three arguments from the lesser to the greater in order to prove that the new covenant was far superior than the old. Leading up to these statements, Paul defended his apostleship against the influence of those who, among other things, had promoted aspects of the Law. This prompted Paul to show that his "letter of recommendation," the Corinthian church, was written "in our hearts" by the Spirit, which in turn reflected the fulfilled promise of the new covenant (2 Cor. 3:1-6 cf. Jer. 31:31-34). This led to Paul's making a comparison between the old and new covenants, showing that the ministry in which Paul labored was far more glorious than the supposed ministry in which his opponents labored (2 Cor. 3:7-18). In this section, Moses was portrayed as a type of Paul. Paul ministered the new covenant while Moses ministered the old covenant. Since the covenant that Paul ministered was much more glorious than that of Moses, Paul was, in that sense, superior to Moses. This superiority of Paul over Moses showed the inferiority of Paul's opponents, the Judaizers, who tried to bind elements of the Law of Moses (cf. Heb. 3:1-6)!

### Ministry of the Spirit Versus Ministry of Death

Paul asked,

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children



**We Begin Our  
Fiftieth School-  
Year in August!**

**See Page 4 for Schedule**

of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? (2 Cor. 3:7-8)

The old covenant, which was glorious, was a ministry of death (2 Cor. 3:7a). The Law pointed to the necessity of keeping its commandments, but by itself, without Christ, provided no means of taking care of sin (cf. Rom. 7:7-11; Gal. 3:10-12; Heb. 8:7-13). "Ministry [ministration, KJV]" (from *diakonia*, διακονία) simply refers to service (2 Cor. 3:8-9; 4:1; 5:18; 6:3; 8:4; 9:1, 12-13; 11:8). "Written and engraved" is a reference to the Ten Commandments, which is symbolic of the whole Law (cf. 2 Cor. 3:3). "Was glorious [came with glory, NAS]" refers to the inauguration of the old covenant, symbolized by the brightness ("glory") of Moses' face as he came down from the Mountain with the tables of stone (Ex. 34:29-30). The "glory of his countenance [of his face, NAS]" is a reference to the skin of Moses' face shining as he came down from the mountain (Ex. 34:29, 35). The "glory" of the old covenant, sym-

bolized by Moses' face shining, "was passing away" (2 Cor. 3:7b). "Passing away [done away, KJV; fading, NAS]" (from *katargeo*, καταργέω) in the passive voice, as here, means to pass away, cease (2 Cor. 3:11, 13, "passing away [abolished, KJV]" 14; 1 Cor. 13:8, "will fail ... vanish away," 10, "done away," 11, "put away"). The term "passing away" indicates that "the process was going on at the very time Moses was talking to Israel" (Thompson 47). Given the fading nature of the "ministry of death," how much more glorious is the "ministry of the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:8)? Moses was arguably the greatest leader of God's people in the Old Testament, and thus his ministry was of great value and importance. Yet, like Paul, today's Gospel preacher is involved in a much greater ministry!

## Ministry of Righteousness Versus Ministry of Condemnation

Paul continued, "For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels" (2 Cor. 3:9-10).

The point here was that if the old covenant, which was "of condemnation," was glorious, then the new covenant, which is "of righteousness," is much more glorious (2 Cor. 3:9). The Law was a "ministry of condemnation" because it could not by itself deal with the sin that it exposed in its adherents (cf. 2 Cor. 3:7). The new covenant, however,

### Special Thanks To Our Generous Supporters In May 2018

**Florida Churches of Christ:** Apopka (Tenth Street ); Atlantic Beach (Oceanside); Auburndale (Orange Street); Callahan (First Coast); Clearwater (Central); Daytona Beach (Beville Road); Gainesville (Thirty-Ninth Avenue); Haines City (Central); Jacksonville (Chaffee Road, Wesconnett); Kissimmee (Kissimmee ); Lakeland (Sixth Street, North Lakeland, South Florida Avenue); New Port Richey (River Road); Okeechobee; Orange Park (Lakeside); Plant City (Laura Street); Poinciana (Poinciana); Sarasota (Osprey Avenue); Spring Hill; St. Augustine; St. Petersburg (Pinecrest Park); Stuart.

**Out of State Churches of Christ:** Alabama (Double Springs, Shiloh, Prattville; West Hobbs Street); Michigan (Grand Blanc, Wayne Road); North Carolina (Pike Road); Ohio (Tenth and Clairmont, Fishinger-Kenny, Alkire Road); Oklahoma (Westside, Seminole); South Carolina (Seneca); Tennessee (Albany, Livingston, Walnut Grove, Leanna); Texas (Kamay).

**Individuals:** M/M Rodrigue Aleandre, M/M Blane Anderson, M/M Forest Antemesaris, M/M Jerry Bennett, Jerry Bickford, bettye bolding, Alberta Bond, M/M Manuel Brown, M/M Rico Brown, Annie Chambers, M/M Reginald Colton, M/M Hollis Cress, M/M Emanuel B. Daugherty, David M. Deal, M/M John Donaldson, M/M Jim Edmonson, Virginia Enriquez, Tom Evans, M/M Monte Everley, M/M Matthew Faneuf, H. Joyce Foster, E. Claude Gardner, M/M Allen R. Gardner, Margaret M. George, Dotty Gutzler, M/M James E. Hall, Tim Hayes, M/M Charles Hendrickson, Julia McCartney Huey, Gloria Jones, M/M Hiram Kemp, M/M Darnell Kirkland, Carla Lee, M/M Henderson Mack, M/M C. E. Manning, Brenda Mask, Linda A Mathias, M/M Nathaniel McCray, Maudeann McKendree, M/M John L. McShane Jr., M/M Ed Melott, Ola Mae Navarre, Nancy Norton, Debra Pavlovic-Okolichany, Tammi D. Paye, M/M Jack Pinckert Jr., Linda J. Pinckney, M/M Robert Pratt, Lehman Ragan, M/M Jason Rhymes, M/M Uleysses Richardson, Roger Rosie, M/M Bobby Simpson, Johnye C. Sims, Joyce Stearsman, Glenda Sullivan, M/M Jimmy Sweeney, M/M Eugene W. Tate, M/M Charles A. Thornhill, Ada Walling, M/M Lazaros J. Watson, M/M Michael B. White, M/M Art Wilkins, Debbie Milton Winkle.

**Memorials:** Lillian Dubois (Anonymous); George Peterson (Dorothy Peterson); Maxine Young (M/M Phil Fife).

**Individuals:** Amazon Smile; Forest Park Scholarship Fund.

\*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.

## The Harvester

Published Monthly  
Florida School of Preaching  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
(863) 683-4043

Editor: Brian R. Kenyon, Director

### Board of Directors

Ted Wheeler, Chairman  
Brian Kenyon, Vice-Chairman  
Tim Simmons, Secretary  
Chad Tagtow, Treasurer

Steve Atnip Philip Lancaster  
George K. French Walter Podein  
Bruce Daugherty Ben Radford, Sr.

Uleysses Richardson

**Training Preachers Since 1969**

is a “ministry of righteousness” because it brings one to Christ, where there is “no condemnation” (Rom. 8:1). “Righteousness” (from *diakaiosune*, δικαιοσύνη) is what God requires; what is right, righteousness, uprightness, justice; (God’s) putting (man) in a right relationship (with Himself). The Gospel contains God’s righteousness for people today (Rom. 1:16-17), and Christ’s work on Calvary is how they are made righteous (Rom. 3:21-26). Though the old covenant was glorious, when compared to the new covenant, it had no glory to speak of (2 Cor. 3:10). “Just as the light of the sun makes lesser lights seem as nothing, the new covenant is incomparable in its radiance” (Thompson 49). There is no greater ministry than the ministry of righteousness, in which Paul and Gospel preachers today labor!

## Permanent Ministry Versus Faded-Away Ministry

Paul concluded, “For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious” (2 Cor. 3:11). The difference in the covenants may be summarized in this context as the old “passing away,” while the new “remains.” The old covenant was destined to be only temporary. “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second” (Heb. 8:7 cf. Heb. 7:11-12). The new covenant makes possible the “righteousness”

that the old covenant intended but could not give because of the weakness of the flesh (cf. Rom. 10:3; Heb. 8:8). Paul later wrote:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1-4)

## Conclusion

May we never undervalue the important ministry of the Gospel preacher! Again, Moses was a great servant of God in the Old Testament. In fact, he was a type of Christ (cf. Deut. 18:15-18). However, as great as Moses was, Gospel preachers today are serving a greater, more glorious covenant and are, in that sense, greater than Moses. May all preachers be loyal to Jesus! May all church members hold Gospel preaching in high esteem! 🙏

### Works Cited

Thompson, James. *The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*. Living Word Commentary. Ed. Everett Ferguson. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1984.

# Staff, Board Members, and Students Involved with Evangelistic Mission Campaigns

Summer is a busy time, despite the fact that classes do not resume until Aug. 6, 2018! The following overseas mission works were conducted by FSOP personnel. Bob Bauer (instructor), Ted Wheeler (instructor and board member), Alex Szabo (student), Quentin Chaire (new student this Fall), and Tim Simmons (board member) were on campaigns in Ghana, West Africa. Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (instructor) evangelized in Jamaica. Brian (director, instructor, and board member) and Jagie Kenyon (receptionist), Kathy Sweeney (office manager), C. J. Grimes (student), and Casey Paulin (student) taught the Word in Panama. These campaigns not only bring souls to Christ overseas, but also strengthen local churches here. Thanks to all the congregations and individuals who supported them!





**Florida School of Preaching**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803

www.fsop.net email: fsop@fsop.net

Phone: (863) 683-4043; (800) 320-9780

Fax: (863) 683-0750

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Lakeland, FL  
PERMIT #235

*Electronic Service Requested*

Please Do Not Re-send  
without affixing  
correct postage!

**Fall 2018 Semester Begins Aug. 6**

Register on-line, by calling the office, or by selecting classes from this form and mailing it to the office with your name, address, and phone number!

**Learn God's Word & Be a Part of Our 50th School-Year**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Lakeland Classes</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Credit</b>
Monday	___ 8:30-12:00	Preparation and Delivery of Sermons (203)	Bauer	3
	___ 1:00-4:15	Ezekiel and Daniel (214)	Richardson	3
Tuesday	___ 8:30-12:00	World Religions (275)	Wheeler	3
	___ 1:00-4:15	Sermon on the Mount (280)	Wheeler	3
Wednesday	___ 8:30-12:00	1 and 2 Thessalonians and Galatians (137)	Patterson	3
	___ 1:00-4:15	Greek I (222)	Kenyon	3
Thursday	___ 8:30-12:00	Hermeneutics (100)	Beals	3
	___ 1:00-4:15	Life of Paul (262)	Brownlow-Dindy	3
Friday	___ 8:30-12:00	Hebrews (210)	Atnip	3
	___ 1:00-4:15	Old Testament History (239)	Kemp	3
<b>Extension Classes</b>				
Thursday	___ 6:00-8:30	Christian Evidences (244) (Tenth Street church of Christ, Apopka)	Kenyon	2.5
	___ 6:00-8:30	Character Studies in Scripture (160) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
	___ 7:00-9:30	Hermeneutics (100) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Atnip	2.5