

A Veil Upon The Heart

Introduction. In Exodus 34:29-35, Moses put a veil over his face to shield the glory of God from the Israelites. In 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, the veil, which prevented the Israelites from seeing the radiance pass away, illustrated the condition of heart which prevented the Jews from seeing that the Law had passed away. So whatever may stand between a person and the truth can rightly be represented as a "veil." Let's study some present day veils on people's hearts.

I. ***The Veil Of Prejudice***

- A. Jesus came into the world so that men might escape spiritual blindness (John 9:39).
 - 1. The way of man is not in himself (Jeremiah 10:23).
 - 2. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch (Matthew 15:14).
- B. The Jews described by Paul in 2 Corinthians 3 had their minds veiled.
 - 1. Though they read the scriptures, they could not see the truth in them because that had the veiled face of prejudice (John 5:39).
 - 2. Few vices of the mind are more harmful than prejudice.
- C. The veil of prejudice must be taken away.
 - 1. Nathaniel, in John 1:46, asked a very prejudiced question.
 - 2. If he had held his prejudice, he would never have become a disciple and an apostle.
- D. We must guard against prejudice for it will cause the truth to be veiled in our hearts.

II. ***The Veil Of Reason***

- A. The ability to reason is a precious gift from Almighty God. He expects us to use it wisely and properly.
- B. Jesus offered proof that He was the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - 1. Looking at the evidence causes us to believe in things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).
 - 2. If we judge that Jesus is the Son of God, we must yield to His will (John 15:13-15).
- C. Using our intellect to understand God's mysteries is a great blessing (Matthew 13:17).
 - 1. As a young child rejoices in learning some new thing, to understand God's plan of the ages is a wonderful thing (Romans 16:25-27).
 - 2. However, human reason used in the wrong manner can bring

about terrible results (Romans 1:21; Proverbs 26:12).

III. ***The Veil Of Selfishness***

- A. Unbelief in God comes more from moral problems than intellectual ones (John 3:19-21).
 - 1. People can understand God if they truly so desire (2 Corinthians 1:13; John 7:17).
 - 2. The satisfying of their own fleshly desires is often the problem.
 - a. Sin occurs when one's lust has conceived (James 1:13-16).
 - b. Nothing hinders man from his service to God more than his self-indulgence.
 - c. Self-indulgence keeps many from seeking the truth and serving God.
- B. Many are more interested in satisfying their own fleshly appetites (Philippians 3:19).
 - 1. Eli's wicked sons and their own selfish desire for the better meat (roasted instead of boiled) caused them to commit a great wickedness (1 Samuel 2:12-17).
 - 2. The rich fool was wrapped up in his own self-interest (Luke 12:16-21).
 - a. Observe how the rich man used the personal pronouns, "I," "my," "mine."
 - b. He was interested in taking care of himself, not in serving God.

IV. ***The Veil Of Indifference***

- A. Jesus delivered a parable against indifference (Matthew 22:1-5).
 - 1. Indifferent people are like those who are asked to come to a feast (Luke 14:16-21).
 - 2. The Lord requires zeal of all His children (Titus 2:14; Romans 12:11).
- B. The prophet Zephaniah rebuked the children of Israel for their indifference.
 - 1. The people before the captivity were "settled on their lees" (1:12) or stagnant in spirit. The people were corrupt and selfish, and had stagnated into indifference.
 - 2. Because of this attitude, slaughter and destruction awaited them. Zephaniah compared the proud with the sludge in a wine vat; their elimination would purify Israel (3:11-13). He declared that the poor and humble would be blessed (2:3; 3:12).
- C. Indifference is so very pervasive because it is so easy to become "settled on our lees."

1. The Lord's body needs to rekindle the zeal which used to fuel the ardent desire to see people coming to the Lord.
2. A mature church is one that is growing, working, and united with one another and pursuing a common goal.

V. ***Veils Can Be Removed***

- A. When we are transformed into the same image of Christ, we are liberated from the veils which cover our hearts (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).
 1. By beholding the glory of the Lord, we are changed into the same glory (John 1:14).
 2. The glorious gospel of Christ shines in our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).
 3. The new man resembles the One who made him a new man (Colossians 3:10).
- B. Bearing the image of Christ now assures us of bearing His image later (1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21).
 1. The righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom (Matthew 13:43).
 2. In Romans 8:29-30, Paul surveys the whole process of redemption.
 - a. God foreknew His children (some would obey Him), and predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son (He foreordained how they should be).
 - b. Those whom He predestined, He also called (by means of the gospel), and those whom He called, He also justified (set them free from sin), and those He justified, He also glorified (gave them eternal life).
 - c. Their present glory prepares them for the glory which is yet to be revealed.

Conclusion. With an unveiled face, by the revelation of Spirit of our God, we can see the image of Christ. As we behold His glorious image, we can be changed into the same glory. When life is over, we shall be forever transformed into His glory, for we shall see Him as He is.