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2 Corinthians 3 (ESV) Ministers of the New Covenant

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? <sup>2</sup> You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our<sup>[a]</sup> hearts, to be known and read by all. <sup>3</sup> And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

<sup>7</sup> Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, <sup>8</sup> will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? <sup>9</sup> For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. <sup>10</sup> Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup> For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one<sup>[c]</sup> turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord<sup>[d]</sup> is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,<sup>[e]</sup> are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Footnotes: a. <u>2 Corinthians 3:2</u> Some manuscripts your b. <u>2 Corinthians 3:3</u> Greek fleshly hearts c. <u>2</u> <u>Corinthians 3:16</u> Greek he d. <u>2 Corinthians 3:17</u> Or this Lord e. <u>2 Corinthians 3:18</u> Or reflecting the glory of the Lord

## Bloor Lansdowne Christian Fellowship 11AM <sup>+</sup> April 6, 2014

Bloor Lansdowne Christian Fellowship An Evangelical Church of Christ - located in the heart of Toronto: Come and worship with us 1307 Bloor Street West, Toronto, M6H 1P1 416-535-9578 ~ blcfchurch@yahoo.ca Web Page: www.blcfchurch.ca Twitter: @blcfca

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. – Galatians 3:14

- Sunday ~ 11:00AM: Praise and Worship Service
- Wednesday ~ 11:30AM Prayer and Bible Study
- Wednesday ~ 6-8PM: BLCF Café Community Dinner

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**\*** Friday ~ 7:30PM: BLCF Friday Evening Outreach

### Sunday Praise and Worship Service † Order of Service

Announcements and Call to Worship: Responsive Reading #624 (*The Great Commission* – Matthew 26, Luke 24, Acts 1, Mark 16); Prayer

Opening Hymn #37: Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Choruses

Prayer and Tithing: Hymn #572: Praise God; Prayer Requests

Scripture Verses: Psalm 105:1-27, Jeremiah 31:31-34, 2 Corinthians 3

Message by Steve Mickelson:

'Sharing the Gospel as Ministers of the LORD's New Covenant'

Closing Hymn #40: To God Be the Glory

Communion: Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV) Institution of the Lord's Supper <sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Benediction (Revelation 22:20-21): He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

#### Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV) The New Covenant

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

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#### Psalm 105:1-27 (ESV) Tell of All His Wonderful Works

105 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! <sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! <sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! <sup>4</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, <sup>6</sup> O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. <sup>8</sup> He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, <sup>10</sup> which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, <sup>1</sup> saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

<sup>12</sup> When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it, <sup>13</sup> wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,<sup>14</sup> he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, <sup>15</sup> saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

<sup>16</sup> When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply<sup>[a]</sup> of bread, <sup>17</sup> he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup> His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; <sup>19</sup> until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.<sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free; <sup>21</sup> he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, <sup>22</sup> to bind<sup>[b]</sup> his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

<sup>23</sup> Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. <sup>24</sup> And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes. <sup>25</sup> He turned their hearts to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

<sup>26</sup> He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. <sup>27</sup> They performed his signs among them and miracles in the land of Ham.

Footnotes: a. Psalm 105:16 Hebrew staff b. Psalm 105:22 Septuagint, Syriac, Jerome instruct

