

The Vail Upon Their Hearts

I. Introduction:

A. When you compare what was of old and what is of new, there really is not a comparison (**II Corinthians 3:5-11**).

1. The Old Law could not save (**Acts 13:38-39** and **Galatians 2:16-17**).
2. Additionally, the Old Law kept a fear of death that is relieved in Christ (**Hebrews 2:14-18**).

B. The Old Law began to be revealed on graven stones (**Deuteronomy 10:1-4**).

1. It was not that the Holy Spirit didn't work through the Old Law as the revealer, for He did (**II Peter 1:20-21**).
2. The difference is spiritual vs. carnal (**Romans 7:1-6; 8:1-3**).

II. Body: **II Corinthians 3:12-16**

A. Plain speech because the Gospel is a message of salvation, of hope (**Colossians 1:5-6**).

1. The Old Law did not bring the message of hope we have now (**Hebrews 7:19**).
2. We live under the better covenant (**Hebrews 8:1-6**).
3. Even regarding the faithful of old (**Hebrews 11:1-39**), we now have that which is better (**Hebrews 11:40**).

B. Moses did literally put a vail on his face (**Exodus 34:33-35**).

1. The figure however is that Moses did not reveal what was to come. We know that because it was a mystery until the first century (**Romans 16:25-26** and **I Peter 1:3-12**).
2. That which was, and is now abolished, simply stood as a shadow of things to come (**Colossians 2:12-17**).

C. The problem was, the veiling of the mystery was over (**Ephesians 3:1-11**); but the children of Israel kept that blindness as did their forefathers (**Acts 7:51**).

1. Even among the disciples there was a problem (**Mark 16:12-14** and **Luke 24:24-27**).
2. So, the problem of old continued even when the Gospel was preached plainly (**Acts 28:17-29**).

D. Why does having an open heart matter so much (**Romans 10:9-10**)?

1. The heart has always been significant in the hearing and obeying of God's word (**Deuteronomy 6:5-6**, **Deuteronomy 11:18**, **Deuteronomy 30:14**, **Deuteronomy 32:46**, **Proverbs 4:4**, **Luke 8:15**, **Acts 8:37**, and **Romans 6:17**).
2. Let's not ever be foolish like the erring of old (**Jeremiah 5:21**).

III. Conclusion: The solution is found when one decides to turn to God (**Lamentations 3:40**) because of what that process entails (**Psalms 119:2** and **Jeremiah 29:13**).