

If anyone wants to know what Christ's purposes  
to do for man, he can find out by looking  
at Jesus. He is the embodiment of what Christ  
purpose to make men.

## THE LAW OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

Text: 2 Cor. 3:18

INTRO: The purpose of salvation is to make men like Jesus Christ -- not merely to provide a sure escape from the horrors of hell or a safe passage to the glories of heaven, but in the words of Romans 8, that we might be conformed to the image of God's Son.

The Christian Life is a life of transformation. Not speaking now of that ultimate and final transformation when we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye...Phil. 3; I Cor. 15; I John 3.

There is a process going on right now...Again and again the New Testament indicates our likeness to our Lord. He is the Son, we are sons; the Light of the World, Anointed, Priest; sent from Father...  
He is the image of Invisible God, we are image of unseen Christ.  
The text reveals hows this is carried out. The third chapter is a contrast between Moses shining face and the Christian experience of glory.

I want to fasten on three words:

I. CONTEMPLATION "But we all beholding as in a glass, the glory of the Lord."

How are we transformed? A surprising revelation. Not by struggling to be like Jesus...not by standing Him on a pedestal as a model we try to imitate.

BUT BY BEHOLDING, GAZING, SIMPLY LOOKING UNTO HIM.

It is His responsibility to change us, ours to behold Him.  
This is how the final change is to be accomplished...

I John 3: 1-3...There is power in just looking at Him.

Cf. Rom. 12:2 -- what occupies the mind, the thought life, what the eyes of the mind and soul fasten upon... the life becomes like that it beholds.

1. This is a CONSCIOUS BEHOLDING -- not accidentally, but a conscious effort made to fasten the thoughts upon Jesus, a training of the mind, to contemplate, meditate, practice His presence....most of us let our thoughts run and ramble where they will... But rest assured the devil will be making suggestions..

Rapture  
instead of  
Rapture



2. This is to be a CONCENTRATED BEHOLDING -- it is a gaze, not a glance... It is a participle which indicates a continuing practice. Too many of us just glance at Jesus on Sunday AM then wonder why the transforming power of the Spirit isn't producing a change...

The idea is that of an intensive, scrutinizing gaze, even a habit of life.

3. It is to be a CLEAR BEHOLDING -- "with open faces." Unveiled, uncovered face. That expression has a twofold connotation...one we'll see later, but first it means our face unveiled towards God...nothing blocking the veil, nothing between, *nothing clouding our vision y Jesus*

## II. TRANSFORMATION "changed into the same image"

1. Meaning of the word: metamorphis...we've met this word before. Rom. 12:2; Mark 9:2; Matt. 17:2, used of Christ's transfiguration...of the change of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

IT IS THE INWARD NATURE BURSTING FORWARD INTO AN OUTWARD CHANGE.

2. It is first an inward change. Imitation is an outward conformity to a pattern; IMPARTATION is an INWARD TRANSFORMATION of character, which results in OUTWARD CHANGE OF CONDUCT.

Moses change was only skin-deep...

3. It is a PERMANENT CHANGE...because it is a change of the inward nature. Moses was only temporary and he wore a veil to keep the people from seeing the fading glory. WHAT IS YOUR VEIL?

4. It is a GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION "from glory unto glory" from one degree of change to another...it is a slow process, a lifetime ~~exercise~~ occupation. THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS!

5. It is a SPIRIT-EFFECTED TRANSFORMATION. "as from the Spirit of the Lord." *Don't Quench Him*



*The whole idea behind image is manifestation*

### III. MANIFESTATION "with open face"

1. The word beholding carries with it the idea of reflecting...reflecting what we receive.
2. Unveiled face: the second idea in this ~~face~~ phrase is unveiled toward men...open towards God and open towards man. The great contrast is this. Moses moved among the people with his face veiled, we move among them with the face uncovered, so as to reflect the image of Christ that is being formed within us.
3. What we see will be seen. Get close enough to an eye and you can see in it the reflection of what it is looking at. Our characters will reflect what we are gazing at, mediating upon.
4. If there is little of Jesus being manifested there is little of Jesus being CONTEMPLATED.
5. Do you dare remove the veil? What would people see reflected in your face if you removed the veil?