

II Corinthians 3:18

18. “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

In the short time we have this morning we would like to unfold this verse and explore as much of the potential meaning God has for us, as is possible.

First of all the kernel sentence embedded in verse 18 is “we are being transformed”. The subject “we” refers necessarily to Christians and so the promise of transformation here is for Christians only. The verb “transformed” is the Greek is *metamorphoo*. This is where our English word metamorphosis comes from.

In nature we are given examples of physical metamorphosis in tad poles changing into frogs, and caterpillars turning into butterflies. Metamorphosis then is the process by which an individual creature is changed from one form or state of being into a completely different form.

Verse 18 of II Corinthians chapter 3 reveals the conditions which must be present for a person to be transformed spiritually; that is from glory to glory. This would regard the complete transformation of a person starting from his initial conversion into a spiritually mature individual ready to live with God forever.

The first condition which must be present for this spiritual metamorphosis to take place is that the person has an “unveiled face”. The context of II Corinthians chapter 3 reveals that an unveiled face has to do with the veil being removed from a person’s heart, whenever a person turns to the Lord according to verses 15 and 16. The reception of the indwelling Holy Spirit is also indicated here in verse 17 as part of the unveiling process, and this is consistent with other New Testament passages such as Acts 3:19.

The second condition necessary for spiritual transformation put forth in II Corinthians 3:18 is the person “beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord”. Notice the mirror referenced here is not specifically defined, but corresponding cross-references such as James 1:23 lead us to understand that the mirror in this verse is the New Testament Scriptures. So as one looks into the mirror of the New Testament, he sees the glory of the Lord Jesus. But when you look into a mirror, who do you see? You see yourself, right?

Notice the Scriptures go on to read: “we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image.” In other words, those with the indwelling Spirit who look into the New Testament Scriptures to see the glory or illumination of the Lord are thereby changed into the image they see. So we are changed, or transformed, by, and into, the very image of Christ Himself. Now that is

glory indeed!

Another verse which describes this metamorphosis is Romans 12:2, which states: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove (or demonstrate) what the will of God is, (that which is good, and acceptable, and perfect).

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

And so as we close out our programs for this year, we wish you much more than just happiness for the coming new year--we desire (that being) a happy new you in preparation for eternity to come.