



2 CORINTHIANS: A DEFENSE OF GENUINE MINISTRY AND AUTHORITY

Lesson: Treasure in Jars of Clay

Scripture: 2 Corinthians
4:1-18

INTRODUCTION

Old Covenant

Written on **tablets of stone**

The letter kills

Ministry of death

Fading glory

Brings **condemnation**

Veiled hearts and minds

Leads to **bondage**

No inner transformation

New Covenant

Written on **human hearts** (v. 3)

The Spirit gives life (v. 6)

Ministry of the Spirit (vv. 7–8)

Surpassing and lasting glory (vv. 7, 11)

Brings **righteousness** (v. 9)

Veil removed through Christ (vv. 14–16)

Leads to **freedom** (v. 17)

Transformed into Christ's image (v. 18)

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW COVENANT MINISTRY (VV. 1-6)

A. It's Sustained by Mercy (v.1)

B. It's Carried Out with Integrity (v.2)

C. It's Proclaimed with Clarity (vv.3-5)

It's Empowered by God's Light (v.6)

II. TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY (VV. 7-12)

A. The Surpassing Greatness of Power
(v.7)



B. Strength through Weakness (vv.8-9)



C. Death in the Minister Produces Life
in Others (vv.10-12)

III. ENDURING SUFFERING WITH RESURRECTION HOPE (VV. 13–15)

A. A. Faith Leads to Boldness (v.13)

B. Resurrection Is Our Anchor (v.14)

Ministry Leads to Worship (v.15)

IV. FIXING OUR EYES ON ETERNAL GLORY (VV. 16–18)

**A. The Inner Person Is Being Renewed
(v.16)**

**B. Eternal Glory Outweighs Present
Affliction (v.17)**

C. We Walk by Faith, Not Sight (v.18)