

EPISTLES OF CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men; being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables that are hearts of flesh.”* (II Cor. 3:2-3).
- A. WHAT IS AN EPISTLE?
1. That which contains information and instruction.
 2. Differs from a letter in that respect.
 3. It is a means of communicating a message.
- B. HOW COULD PAUL SAY THEY WERE HIS EPISTLE?
1. If you wanted to know what Paul taught - Read his Epistle. (Corinthians)
 2. Much about Paul - What he believed, did, etc. Could be seen in the church at Corinth.
 3. **They were - what they were (Christians) because Paul had been there and taught them.
- C. HOW WERE THEY EPISTLES OF CHRIST?
1. If you wanted to know about Christ....look at the Corinthian Christians.
 2. They reflected Christ.
 3. See more about this later in lesson.
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Purpose Of An Epistle...

- A. TO CONVEY INFORMATION.
1. For this purpose.
 2. To enlighten and inform the reader.
- B. TO BE READ.
1. It is like a public speech and looks toward publication.
 2. Addressing all and sundry whom it may concern:
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Epistle of New Covenant

- A. Old Was Ministration of Death....”written and engraved on stones”
1. No doubt as to what he is referring to.
 2. The law that came through Moses. (v. 7).
- B. HOW, OR WHY WAS IT A MINISTRATION OF DEATH?
1. Revealed the law of God.
 2. And man’s inability to live a perfect life.
 3. And no final provision for forgiveness was made (without the shedding of blood...no forgiveness.) (Hebrews 9:22).
- C. YET IT CAME WITH GLORY!

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1. So much so that children of Israel could not look on face of Moses.
 2. The Old Ministration was great...And accomplished its purpose. (Gal. 3)
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VEILED HEARTS

- A. V. 15 “unto this day, whensoever Moses is read, a veil lieth upon their hearts
 1. As Jesus said: “Their eyes they have closed”
 2. Did not want to understand with their hearts.
 - B. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE OR UNDERSTAND.
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EPISTLES OF CHRIST

- A. REMEMBER, people receive and read an Epistle to get information.
 1. In an epistle there are:
 2. Instruction and Information.
 - B. THEY COME WITH QUESTIONS.....Seeking Answers.
 1. Their Questions are about Christ.
 2. When they read you (Epistle of Christ) what answers do they Get?
 - C. **YOU WILL BE READ:**
 1. You have no choice, you are seen and read of all men.
 2. A lamp is not put under a bushel....NOR is an Epistle left Closed and on the shelf.
 - D. SOME OF THEIR QUESTIONS ARE: **(They will read you for answers)**
 1. The Importance of the Church.
 - a. Faithfulness.
 - b. First things first.
 2. Christian Conduct....**How should a Christian act?**
 - a. Language
 - b. Dress
 - c. Morals.
 - d. Doing Good.
 - e. Pure Religion is this....(James 1).
 3. How Do I Become A Christian?
 - a. H.B.R.C. and B.
 - b. Live the Christian life.
 - E. **YOU ARE AN EPISTLE OF CHRIST ...WHAT IS THE WORLD READING??**
 1. Let's make sure they are getting the right information.
 2. Eternity depends on it....THEIRS and **YOURS.**
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