

Written on Our Hearts

2 Corinthian 3:1-18

Ezekiel 36:26

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my commandments, and ye shall keep my rights, and do *them*. Jubilee Bible 2000

- I. V 1: We are to take sharing the gospel with others _____ and _____!
 - A. Paul is a little _____, not in a mean way but because he truly cares, and this is extremely personal to him. Remember in the preceding verse 17 of chapter 2 Paul ends by saying we are not like many others who are _____ the word of God. Acts 8:9-24, Philippians 1:15-22 Paul knows we are in a deadly spiritual battle with an implacable foe, and Paul loves the Corinthians so much he is willing to lose his own life in order to bring them to Christ. Romans 9:1-3 He is not doing it out of ego, or power, or money. So, Paul asks them if he and Titus, Timothy and others have to keep defending and commending themselves in order to justify the truth they are attempting to teach the Corinthians. Most of the time sarcasm is not good or appropriate, but every once in a while, wit and humor and a gentle loving rebuke “wake” people up to the reality of the true problem. Political cartoons, comedy routines and even books and plays have been used to point out a truth or make a point in a clever fashion. Paul uses this technique frequently in his letters, especially to the Corinthians. Elijah 1 kings 18:25-27 I.e., Johnathan Swifts “A modest proposal” 1729 and many others.
 - B. Written on your _____ because I truly care for you! You are our _____ written in our hearts, and also you are a letter written to reflect _____! There is an awesome three-way connection between believers and each other and God. Kind of like the marriage covenant between two people and their covenant to God. Ephesians 5:14-33, 1 Corinthians 12:11-31, 1 John 1:3 1 Peter 4:8
- II. Fulfillment of the Ten commandment given to Moses that are now written in our hearts, not in stone or ink.
 - A. Even the original ten commandments written in stone are not as lasting as the Holy Spirit who writes God’s commandments on our hearts. The tablets are gone, the ark of the covenant is lost... but God’s words are not lost. Isaiah 40:8, Mathew 24:35, 1 Peter 1:25
 - B. We should reflect God’s _____ just as Moses did who had to have a veil. We are part of a great ministry to share the gospel with others. Matthew 5:15-16, Isaiah 49:6
 - C. Our minds are hardened and blinded and _____ to the truth just as the Israelites were at the foot of Mt Sinai. Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - D. We are to pray for others and be a minister to others so the veil is lifted, and they can experience the _____ of knowing Christ. Matthew 27:51, John 8:32 1 John 1:1-4

Answers: seriously, personal, sarcastic, peddling, heart, letter, Christ, Glory, veiled, liberty/ freedom Christ.