1. ***Paul’s Commendation: Spirit’s Recording – Seen by All***

Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? Or do we not need, as some (*tis*),

epistles of commendation to you or from (*ek*) you?

You are our epistle, recorded

on our hearts,

being recognized and being read by **all men**,

being revealed that

you are an epistle of Christ, served by us, being recorded

not by ink,

but by *the* Spirit of *the* living God,

not on stone tablets,

but on fleshy heart-tablets.

1. ***Intermediate Consequence:* But we have such confidence through Christ to God.**
2. ***Paul’s Ability to Serve under a New Covenant: Superiority of Spirit Life***

Not that we are able from (*apo*) ourselves to count anything (*tis*) as out of (*ek*) ourselves,

but our ability *is* out of (*ek*) God,

Who also made us able *as* servants of a **new** covenant,

not of letter

but of Spirit,

for the letter kills

but the Spirit makes alive.

1. ***Services & Glories of Two Covenants Compared: “Much More”***

But if the service of the death, carved in stone letters, became glorious,

so that the sons of Israel could not gaze at the face of Moses,

on account of the passing glory of his face,

how will not the service of the Spirit be more glorious?

For if the service of the condemnation *had* glory,

much more the service of the righteousness exceeds in glory.

For even the glorification has not been glorified in this respect:

because of the surpassing glory.

For if what is passing away *was* through glory,

much more what remains *is* by glory.

1. ***Intermediate Consequence:* Therefore having such a hope, we use much boldness.**
2. ***Moses’ Service Under the Old Covenant: Veiled vs. Unveiled Heart***

And not as Moses *who* put a veil over his face,

for the sons of Israel not to gaze continually at what was passing away,

but their minds were hardened,

for until the day today the very veil remains

unlifted over the reading of the **old** covenant,

because in Christ it has passed away.

But until today, whenever Moses may be read,

a veil lies upon their heart.

But whenever one may turn back to *the* Lord,

the veil is removed.

1. ***Transformation: Lord-Spirit’s Image - Reflected in All***

But the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of *the* Lord – *is* freedom.

But **we all** with unveiled face,

reflecting the glory of *the* Lord,

are being transformed into the same image

from (*apo*) glory into glory,

even as from (*apo*) *the* Lord-Spirit (*hapax*).

**Old Covenant**: sons of Israel, written with ink, stone tablets, hardened minds, letter, condemnation, death, passing away, Moses & his face – a passing hidden glory, unlifted veil.

**New Covenant**: Paul’s & Christ’s epistle (believers), written on the heart, fleshy heart-tablets, by the Spirit, enlivened, the Lord-Spirit & His face – we reflect the Lord’s glory/image, life, righteousness, confidence, hope, turning back, freedom, a much more surpassing abiding & reflected glory, transformation, veil removed - unveiled face.

**Spirit, Lord, Spirit of the Lord, Lord-Spirit, Christ, God, Living God**: divine names

**Compare:** 1st recording (*eggraphō*) in LXX of Exo.39:14 (36:21), where the heart-stones of the High Priest’s breastplate were engraved with the names of Israel’s 12 sons. And “everyone who is found recorded (LXX *eggraphō*) in the scroll” (Dan.12:1) in a time of trouble, when Michael stands up for Israel.

**Also:** Solomon’s command to his son to write upon (LXX – *epigraphō*) the tablet of his heart his father’s law. (Pro.7:1-3).

**Most notably:** God would write (LXX *graphō*) His law on the hearts of Israel and Judah (Jer.31:33) in His new covenant with them. Heb.8:10 and 10:16 quote this, using *epigraphō*.

**Write with ink:** All the adversities of the Lord against Israel and the nations, which Jeremiah dictated to Baruch, he wrote in a scroll “with ink” (Heb. text only).