

# Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 3:4-18 NLT | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the 6th in our fall series on Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. He has worked through aspects of their real conflict; last week he gave them some amazing pictures of how they are part of a glorious parade, how they are the aroma of Christ, and a letter of recommendation for Jesus.

Today, Paul suggests they can be confident and bold in their faith because of the greater glory of the second covenant over the first one; the Spirit is over the law, and Christ surpasses Moses. And as we turn to the Lord, the veil of sin, death, bondage, and futility is removed. We find freedom, new life, and hope for ongoing transformation.

1. When was a time in your life when you were especially confused? Or felt like you had to hide behind a mask, or wear protective armor? What turned things around?
2. Read 2 Cor. 3:4-18. From verses 4-6, where is our competence and confidence found? In verse 6, Paul contends, “The law kills but the Spirit gives life.” From verses 7-11, why does Paul believe “the law kills, but that the Spirit gives life”?
3. In verses 12-18, Paul extends the argument of why we can be bold and have hope. What is the deficiency of Moses? Why is Christ all sufficient and far superior to Moses?
4. What do you think it means in verse 14 to be *in Christ*? And what does vs. 16 mean when it says, “When one *turns to* the Lord, the veil is removed”?
5. In my message, I tried to flesh out the difference between the old covenant and the new; how Christ really establishes and ensures the initial and ongoing transformation that occurs in the new covenant. What, if anything, struck you or helped you with that concept? How do our confirmation students’ public affirmation of faith, their baptisms, and their commitment to follow Jesus model what Paul is talking about here?

And of what resources in the church or outside (perhaps devotionally) might you take advantage to help you “be transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit”?

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<b>Financial Update</b> as of Nov 9, 2025	
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	10,470,174
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	3,733,118

<b>Births and Deaths</b>	
Bettie L. Lively passed away Sep 5.	
Sandra Smith passed away Nov 5.	
More information at <a href="https://memorials.mdpc.org">memorials.mdpc.org</a> .	



## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### BLESS Friday

**Fri, Nov 28**  
Join the movement to honor Christ by starting the Christmas season with service. MDPC is honored to be a part of the transformation of Black Friday, a national shopping phenomenon, into Bless Friday, a spirit-filled service day. To see a list of project suggestions, visit [blessfriday.mdpc.org](https://blessfriday.mdpc.org).

### Women’s Christmas Coffee

**Tue, Dec 2 | 9:30-11am | Parlor**  
Join us for this annual tradiatnoi, filled with holiday cheer, sweet treats, and joyful fellowship. We’ll enjoy the spirit of the season with a special performance by The Yellow School Choir.

### Young Adult Worship Night

**Thu, Dec 4 | 7-9pm | Sanctuary Courtyard**  
You’re invited to a Christmas Advent Worship Night under the stars! Experience a peaceful night of worship, teaching, and prayer as we prepare our hearts for Christmas with others in their 20s and 30s. Free childcare available (must pre-register). RSVP: [yaevents.mdpc.org](https://yaevents.mdpc.org)

### Christmas for Kids

**Delivery Deadline: Fri, Dec 5**  
Be part of brightening a child’s Christmas morning! Provide three wrapped gifts for a sponsored child. The suggested donation is \$75 per child. Please purchase according to your budget. See children’s wish lists and sign up at [cfk.mdpc.org](https://cfk.mdpc.org).

To view all events, visit [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).

### Family Christmas Festival

**Sun, Dec 7 | 3:30-5:30pm**  
Bring your whole family to enjoy a petting zoo, inflatables, live music, games, crafts, and more! Invite your neighbors to this FREE community event. Please bring a canned good to support the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.

### Christmas Concert

**Sun, Dec 7 | 6-8pm | Sanctuary**  
A fantastic seasonal event featuring songs and carols with the Sanctuary Choir and a 40-piece orchestra. Admission is free. Childcare available (must pre-register at [concert.mdpc.org](https://concert.mdpc.org)).

### Spread a Little Christmas Cheer...

**Sun, Dec 7 | 3:30-5:30pm | Fellowship Hall**  
by volunteering at the Family Christmas Festival! We need adults and teens to help with festive crafts, games, and more. Contact Keri Mosk, [kmusk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmusk@mdpc.org), for more information.

### Poinsettia Dedications

**Order must be received by Fri, Dec 12.**  
Dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. On Christmas Eve, printed dedications will be at the Connection Center and included in the online bulletin. Purchase your dedications at [flowers.mdpc.org](https://flowers.mdpc.org).




**Give Online**  
[give.mdpc.org](https://give.mdpc.org)



**Today! 10:45-Noon - MDPC Playground**

Hey dads, this one's for you! Bring the family and join us for a relaxed hangout with snacks, drinks, and plenty of time to connect with other dads while the kids play.

No agenda, no sign-up, no pressure — just an easy, low-bar way to meet other MDPC dads and build some community along the way.



**CURIOUS ABOUT MDPC?**

This class is a laid-back way to learn what we believe, meet others, and see if this might be your church home. No pressure, just connection!

**Fri evening, Nov 21 • 6-8:30pm**  
**Sat morning, Nov 22 • 8-11:30am**  
[newmembers.mdpc.org](https://newmembers.mdpc.org)

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Worship Songs	<i>Rejoice What Can Wash Away My Sin</i>	
*Confession & Assurance   Prayers of the People		Dan Aikins
Worship Hymn	<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	<b>Beautifully Broken</b> 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 NLT	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Anthem of Response	<i>A Covenant Prayer</i>	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
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SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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9:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Opening Song	<i>Glorious Day</i>	
*Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
*Worship Songs	<i>Freedom in This House Who You Say I Am</i>	
*Confession & Assurance		Sally Henien
*Worship Songs	<i>One Thing Remains Way Maker</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	<b>Beautifully Broken</b> 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 NLT	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Abide</i>	
Introduction of Confirmands		Rachel Poysky
Congregational Response and Prayer		
Song of Celebration	<i>Freedom in This House</i>	

Baptisms	Rachel Poysky and Alf Halvorson	
	Chloe Louise Jennings, daughter of Thomas and Angela Jennings	
	Colton Louis Jennings, son of Thomas and Angela Jennings	
	Carter James Wallis, son of James and Jennifer Wallis	
	Zoe Isabella Greene, daughter of Cid and Arleen Greene	

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Chris Parrott, guitar | Uvaldo Callejas, bass  
Jaime Arroyo, keys | Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

Additional Musicians at 8:30: Kelli Estes, Megan Berti, Chris Childress, Antoine Griggs, quartet  
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Variations on 'Come, Thou Fount'</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)
Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Lend Your Voice to the Song</i>	Carl Nygard (b. 1947)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Vs. 1, 2   #485   TO GOD BE THE GLORY
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Luke Funderburk
*Affirmation of Faith from New City Catechism, Q1		
*Congregational Response	<i>Psalms 103: Bless the Lord My Soul</i>	#145   MARION

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>(Ubi Caritas) Where There Is Charity</i>	Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
Message	<b>Beautifully Broken</b> 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 NLT	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

Anthem of Response	<i>A Covenant Prayer</i>	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Baptisms	Beth Case and Alf Halvorson	
	Noah Jackson O'Brien, son of Gavin and Courtney O'Brien	
	Tyler Gray Seaman	
	Tatum Grace Seaman, daughter of Tyler and Haley Seaman	
	Georgia Hall Lancaster, daughter of Fred and Kristy Lancaster	

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592   OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Alleluia</i>	W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Musicians: MDPC Sanctuary Choir  
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

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CONFIRMANDS

John Harrison Brown	Zoe Greene	Claire Elizabeth Osteen
Carter Cattan	Eloise Lane Harrison	Emma Kate Pezzia
Cole Cattan	William Robert Holz	Susan Rebekah Powell
Alexandra Christine Chapman	Eli Laurier Ickes	Brooks Shelfer
Graham Kirk Conn	Carson Jaeger	Wesley Elias Simpson
Caroline Jane Cooper	Wiley Jean Janke	William Parker Sloan
Beatrix Crank	Chloe Louise Jennings	Street Stedham
Lorelei Crank	Colton Louis Jennings	Luke Grayson Tackett
Molly Daly	Carter Khalil	Drew Tanous
Elizabeth Dang	Charlotte Llewellyn King	Charlotte Ann Taylor
Charlie Dardis	Connor Ian Lankford	Jane Watford Vajdos
Cameron Walker DeLaat	Hannah Joy Lumpkin	Carter James Wallis
Vivian Isabel Espinoza	Nathaniel Long	Gracie Watson
Vera Anne Finnilla	Emmaline Rose McChristian	Joseph Robert Winship
William Carter Going, Jr.	Chase Patrick Michels	

\*Please stand, if comfortable.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out!  
Visit [staff.mdpc.org](http://staff.mdpc.org) for contact information and ministry areas.