

Introduction

- Talking about how we minister the new covenant makes Paul think of the content of the new covenant itself:
 - that **basis of relationship** between God and man, that **promise of grace** rooted in Jesus' achievement on the Cross
- If we are to model in our lives the **example** of the new covenant...
- If we are to **smell** of the one who makes this covenant...
- If we are to be legible **letters** of the covenant, able to be read...
- *Then we must surely know the content of that covenant!*

By Comparison

- Paul's key method for delighting in the covenant here is **comparison**

More glorious (7-11)

- More glorious for it achieved more
- Death/life (life by implication) (v.7)
- Letters of stone/living relationship through the Spirit (v.7,8)
- Fading/lasts (v.7)
- Condemns/brings righteousness (v.9)
- **So:** glory/surpassing glory (v.10,11)

More clear (12-16)

- Israelites hearing OT prophecies and not seeing Christ in them...
 - there was a spiritual blindness
 - there **is** a spiritual blindness among the Jews today
 - there **is** a spiritual blindness among **our peers** today
- Blindness only removed through relationship with Christ:
 - which we can draw people towards, but not force on people!

More like (17-18)

- Entering into relationship with Christ, through this new covenant, points us in the direction of Christ-likeness
 - including free, free to be who God made us to be...
 - free of the things our history or our heritage have molded us to be
 - free of the expectations of others, the pressures to be something less than we are in Christ

Conclusion

- **Bold!** (v.12)
 - to tell
 - to live
 - to worship
 - to pray