

1. Opening Prayer

2. Structure

3:1-3: Retort against an antagonistic argument, “Paul was not recommended by the council.”

3:4-6: Paul’s argument, “I have been recommended by the Spirit.”

3:7-11: Underpinning statements, “the letter kills, but the Spirit saves.”

3:12-18: Conclusion: The Spirit gives us the hope of glory.”

3. Read 2 Cor. 3

4. Questions

- a. Why do you think Paul mentioned whether he had a recommendation letter or not?  
(Read 2:5)
- b. Do you think it is important for Paul to claim his pastoral authority over the church of Corinth? Why or why not?
- c. How do you understand “You are a letter from Christ” in v.3?
- d. What does Paul mean by confidence in verse 4?
- e. What is “a new covenant” in verse 6? Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. According to Jeremiah, how different is the new covenant from the old covenant?
- f. In verse 6, what does the Spirit do? Read Ezekiel 36:26-27.

- g. Verses from 7 to 11 are full of comparison. How do you see Paul make the comparison?
- h. What is 'veil' in verses 13-16?
- i. Who is "the Lord" in verses 16-18?
- j. What do you think Paul would love to say, using the "mirror" as a metaphor?
- k. How would you describe the people who argued Paul's invalid pastoral authority?

## 5. Closing Prayer