# The Ministry of the Spirit is Superior to the Ministry of the Letter

I. A Letter Read by All, 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

**II. Paul's Confidence,** 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

**III. A Greater Glory,** 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

"And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many peddling the word of God; but of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."

2 Corinthians 2:16c-17

- I. A Letter Read by all, 2 Corinthians 3:1-3
  - A. The Two-Fold Question, v. 1
    - "Do we begin again to commend ourselves?"

-"or do we need, as some, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?"

**B.** Paul's Answer, vv. 2–3

"You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men:..."

#### II. Paul's Confidence was in God alone, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

A. The source of his confidence, vv. 4c-5

**B.** Sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, v. 6

- **III. A Greater Glory,** 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
  - A. The old and new covenant compared, vv. 7-15; +
  - **B.** The ministry of the Spirit:
    - "Surpassing Glory"
    - "...the veil is taken away in Christ" v. 14c, 16
  - **C. A Two-Fold Proclamation:** 
    - Of Liberty v. 18a
      - Of Transformation, v. 18b