

كنيسة كورنثوس شهادة للرسول

¹أَفَتَبْدِي تَمْدَحُ أَنْفُسَنَا؟ أَمْ لَعَلَّنَا نَحْتَاجُ كَقَوْمِ رَسَائِلِ تَوْصِيَةٍ إِلَيْكُمْ أَوْ رَسَائِلِ تَوْصِيَةٍ مِنْكُمْ؟ ²أَنْتُمْ رَسَائِلُنَا مَكْتُوبَةٌ فِي قُلُوبِنَا، مَعْرُوفَةٌ وَمَقْرُوءَةٌ مِنْ جَمِيعِ النَّاسِ، ³ظَاهِرِينَ أَنْكُمْ رَسَائِلُ الْمَسِيحِ، مَحْدُومَةٌ مِنَّا، مَكْتُوبَةٌ لَا بِحَبْرٍ بَلْ بِرُوحِ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، لَا فِي أَلْوَاكِ حَجَرِيَّةٍ بَلْ فِي أَلْوَاكِ قَلْبٍ لَحْمِيَّةٍ.

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⁴وَلَكِنْ لَنَا نَقَّةٌ مِثْلُ هَذِهِ بِالْمَسِيحِ لَدَى اللَّهِ، ⁵لَيْسَ آتِنَا كَقَهَاءٍ مِنْ أَنْفُسِنَا أَنْ تَفْتَكِرَ شَيْئاً كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ أَنْفُسِنَا، بَلْ كَقَائِنَا مِنَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَنَا كَقَهَاءً لِأَن تَكُونَ خُدَّامَ عَهْدٍ جَدِيدٍ، لَا الْحَرْفِ بَلِ الرُّوحِ، لِأَنَّ الْحَرْفَ يَقْتُلُ وَلَكِنَّ الرُّوحَ يُحْيِي. ⁷ثُمَّ إِنْ كَانَتْ خِدْمَةُ الصَّوْتِ الْمَقْشُوشَةِ بِأَخْرُفٍ فِي حِجَارَةٍ قَدْ حَصَلَتْ فِي مَجْدٍ حَتَّى لَمْ يَقْدِرْ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنْ يَنْظُرُوا إِلَى وَجْهِ مُوسَى لِسَبَبِ مَجْدٍ وَجْهِه الرَّايلِ، فَكَيْفَ لَا تَكُونُ بِالْأَوَّلَى خِدْمَةُ الرُّوحِ فِي مَجْدٍ؟ ⁹لَئِنْ كَانَتْ خِدْمَةُ الدَّيْنُونَةِ مَجْداً قِبَالْأَوَّلَى كَثِيراً تَزِيدُ خِدْمَةُ الْبِرِّ فِي مَجْدٍ. ¹⁰فَإِنَّ الْمُمَجَّدَ أَيْضاً لَمْ يُمَجَّدْ مِنْ هَذَا الْقَبِيلِ لِسَبَبِ الْمَجْدِ الْقَائِقِ. ¹¹لَئِنْ كَانَ الرَّايلُ فِي مَجْدٍ قِبَالْأَوَّلَى كَثِيراً يَكُونُ الدَّائِمُ فِي مَجْدٍ. ¹²فَإِذْ لَنَا رَجَاءٌ مِثْلُ هَذَا نَسْتَعْمِلُ مُجَاهَرَةً كَثِيرَةً، ¹³وَلَيْسَ كَمَا كَانَ مُوسَى يَصْعُقُ بَرْقُعاً عَلَى وَجْهِهِ لِكَيْ لَا يَنْظُرَ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَى نِهَابَةِ الرَّايلِ، ¹⁴بَلْ أَعْلِطْتُ أَذْهَانَهُمْ لِأَنَّهُ حَتَّى الْيَوْمَ ذَلِكَ الْبَرْقُعُ تَفْسُهُ عِنْدَ قِرَاءَةِ الْعَهْدِ الْعَتِيقِ بَاقٍ غَيْرَ مُنْكَشِفٍ، الَّذِي يُبْطَلُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ. ¹⁵لَكِنْ حَتَّى الْيَوْمَ، حِينَ يُقْرَأُ مُوسَى، الْبَرْقُعُ مَوْضُوعٌ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ. ¹⁶وَلَكِنْ عِنْدَمَا يَرْجِعُ إِلَى الرَّبِّ يُرْفَعُ الْبَرْقُعُ. ¹⁷وَأَمَّا الرَّبُّ فَهُوَ الرُّوحُ، وَحَيْثُ رُوحُ الرَّبِّ هُنَاكَ حَرَبَةٌ. ¹⁸وَتَحْنُ جَمِيعاً تَاطَرِينَ مَجْدَ الرَّبِّ بِوَجْهِهِ مَكْشُوفٍ كَمَا فِي مِرَاةٍ، تَتَغَيَّرُ إِلَى تِلْكَ الصُّورَةِ عَيْنَهَا مِنْ مَجْدٍ إِلَى مَجْدٍ، كَمَا مِنْ الرَّبِّ الرُّوحِ.

¹Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? ²Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: ³Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. ⁴And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: ⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; ⁶Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. ⁷But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: ⁸How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? ⁹For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. ¹⁰For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. ¹¹For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. ¹²Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: ¹³And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: ¹⁴But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth

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the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.¹⁶ Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.¹⁸ But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.