

Plain Rice and Pizza

“Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it.” 2 Corinthians 3:7-11.

In human societies there is a trend that demonstrates a disdain for returning to the lesser. For example, a poor society that begins to have access to foods such as steak or fruit or pizza, but previously has only known plain rice and porridge, will do what it can to keep eating these other foods. The greater, once tasted, prevents the taster from returning to the lesser at nearly any cost. The blandness of plain rice and porridge is magnified, and what once had flavor now has none.

God who revealed Himself to Moses and to the Israelites had tremendous glory and majesty. The face of Moses, after being in the presence of God at the beginning of the old covenant, shined so magnificently and terrifyingly that he wore a veil for the sake of the Israelites. Yet Paul writes that this glory was only temporary. It wasn't made to last but was, on purpose, made by God to be something done away with. Whereas the glory of Christ and the new covenant is eternal, and the glory of the gospel and the new covenant far surpasses the glory of the Law that caused Moses' face to shine – to the extent that the Law and the old covenant has no glory at all. From plain rice to pizza.

This is a very challenging passage for all Christians. We rarely assign the new covenant of the Spirit the glory of the Law, let alone its true surpassing glory. We feast upon filet mignon and treat it as if it were no different than baked mud. For many Christians, Christianity is an annoying obligation rather than a new covenant of radiant glory with our Creator. Let us, then, treat it as if we believe that its glory is true. **[DJR]**