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**Eye Has Not Seen
What God Has
Already Revealed
Through Christ**



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† One of the most quoted verses in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 2:9. Many believers assume Paul is speaking about heaven, saying that no one can yet know what God has prepared for His people until they die. But if we keep reading, Paul immediately explains that these things had already been revealed through the Holy Spirit. The context isn't about waiting for future

knowledge, it's about the revelation of God's once-hidden mystery through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

but just as it is written:

"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the human heart, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

† Paul doesn't stop at verse 9. He immediately says, But to us God revealed them through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10)

† The mystery wasn't still hidden from believers. It had already been revealed through Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 3:3-6)

† Reading only verse 9 completely reverses Paul's point. Verse 10 is the inspired explanation of verse 9. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Ephesians 3:3-6

that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before briefly. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to mankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

† Paul explains exactly what had once been hidden from previous generations.

† The mystery had now been revealed, not postponed until heaven. The New Covenant had made known what God had prepared from the beginning.

† Jew and Gentile were now united in one body through Christ, something that had not been fully revealed under the Old Covenant. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Colossians 1:26-27

that is, the mystery which had been hidden from the past ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

† Paul again says the mystery had been hidden, but now had been manifested.

† God wasn't withholding this truth for a future age. He had already made it known to His saints.

† Christ dwelling in His people was the fulfillment of what had been anticipated throughout the Old Testament. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Romans 16:25-26

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now has been disclosed, and through the Scriptures of the prophets, in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

† Paul ends Romans exactly where he began in Corinthians, the mystery had been hidden but now was manifested.
(Romans 16:25-26)

† The mystery wasn't reserved for heaven. It had already been made known to all nations through the gospel.

† This perfectly agrees with 1 Corinthians 2:10, where Paul says God revealed these things through the Spirit.

Matthew 13:16-17

But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

† Jesus told His disciples they were living in the days the prophets longed to see.

† What had once been hidden was now being revealed before their very eyes.

† This perfectly agrees with Paul's teaching that God's prepared plan had now been disclosed through Christ.

Luke 10:23-24

Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see the things that you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things that you hear, and did not hear them."

† Jesus repeats the same truth recorded by Matthew.

† The long-awaited revelation had arrived in His generation.

† The prophets looked forward to these days, but the disciples were living in them. (Luke 10:23-24)

Hebrews 11:39-40

And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

† The faithful of the Old Covenant looked ahead to what God had prepared.

† They didn't receive the fulfillment during their lifetime because it belonged to the New Covenant generation.

† The better promise arrived through Christ and was experienced by those living in the days of the apostles. (Hebrews 8:6-13)

1 Peter 1:10-12

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-things into which angels long to look.

† Peter says the prophets searched diligently to understand what God had prepared.

† They eventually learned those promises were for the first-century believers receiving the New Covenant.

† This is the very same truth Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight - but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

† Being present with the Lord after death is a wonderful reality for every believer.

† But Paul never connected 1 Corinthians 2:9 with learning truths only after death.

† The revealed mystery belongs to believers now, while being with Christ after death is our continuing fellowship with the One already made known to us through the gospel.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that the prophets anticipated the coming revelation fulfilled in Christ, while the apostles proclaimed what had now been made known. (Against Heresies, Book IV)

† Eusebius described the coming of Christ and the spread of the gospel as the unveiling of God's long-hidden plan to the nations. (Ecclesiastical History, Book I)

† The early Christian writers consistently spoke of the mystery being revealed through Christ's first-century ministry, not

postponed to a distant future.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't have to wonder whether God is still hiding His plan from us.

† Through Christ and the completed New Covenant, God has revealed the mystery that generations longed to understand.

† We continue to grow in our understanding of that revelation, but we're not waiting for heaven to finally discover what Paul said had already been revealed.

† We don't live wondering whether God is still keeping His plan a secret.

† We live in the blessings of a covenant that has already been revealed through Jesus Christ and His apostles. (Ephesians 3:3-6; Colossians 1:26-27)

Q & A Appendix

Q: Is 1 Corinthians 2:9 describing heaven?

A: The immediate context says no. Paul explains in the very next verse that God had already revealed these things through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Q: What were the things that eye had not seen?

A: They were God's hidden redemptive plan, the mystery fulfilled in Christ and revealed through the apostles. (Ephesians 3:3-6; Colossians 1:26-27)

Q: Do believers still learn more after being present with the Lord?

A: We certainly enjoy perfect fellowship with Christ after death, but Paul wasn't teaching that the mystery remained hidden until then. His point was that God had already revealed it through the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10)

Q: If these things have already been revealed, why do so many people still quote 1 Corinthians 2:9 as if they haven't?

A: Because the verse is often read by itself. Paul answers his own statement in the very next verse by saying, But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit. The context explains the meaning. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:3-6; Colossians 1:26-27; Matthew 13:16-17; Luke 10:23-24; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book IV; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book I

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