

## I Corinthians 2:9 5-10-15PM

Paul wrote the church of Christ in Corinth to tell them that they needed to overcome their spiritual immaturity. They were still consumed with human reasoning, and had failed to understand God's divine purpose for them. In order to appreciate the great depths of God's plan for them, they would need to understand what God had said to them was greater than they realized. To that end he says in 1 Corinthians 2:9 *"But as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"* (KJV). He was restating a passage from Isaiah 64:4 *"For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him"* (NKJV).

### Something Hidden

That something which was hidden is referred to as **the Mystery of the Gospel** throughout the New Testament. It is in Mark 4:11 as the mystery of the Kingdom; it is called the mysteries of God in 1 Corinthians 4:1. In Colossians 4:3 is it the mystery of Christ, and in 1 Timothy 3:8-9 the mystery of Faith. The mystery is explained in 1 Timothy 3:16: *"By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."* Thus it is the Gospel we speak about, or more clearly, that the Gospel was for all mankind (*"in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, 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"* Ephesians 3:5).

### Something Prepared

Paul also said that God has prepared something for those that love Him. What has He prepared? First, let us consider that He has prepared works in which that we will walk (Ephesians 2:10). This personal work of each Christian is God's constant expectation for us. Second, God has prepared a place for us once we have finished our works: *"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also"* (John 14:2).

### Someone Who Loves Him

All of this has been done with a mind towards those who love Him. This is the crucial point of interest to us: how can we be certain we are His? It simply comes down to love, but that simplicity is lost on most. Love means we do what God has called us to do. In the parallel passage in Isaiah, we are told these things are for those who "wait" on the Lord. How is waiting on God parallel to loving God? Consider eating at a restaurant. The waiter whom you will tip brings you what you have ordered. Could you imagine a waiter who brings you what HE thinks you should eat? Yet many approach God as "waiters" who are neither interested in good service nor in giving God what He has ordered. *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* (John 14:15) is the divine meaning of love, repeated throughout the Bible (John 14:21, John 15:10, 1 John 5:2-3, 2 John 1:6).

### Something Written

Do not lose heart in serving God, for He has great plans for us. *But as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.* 1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV)