

DIVINE REVELATION

I Corinthians 2:9-16

Paul declared that in making known the gospel of Christ he sought to use all simplicity of speech, but when it came to opening up the truth of God to believers, there are deep things which form the hidden wisdom of God that cannot be given to the world at large. The world has its various schools of philosophy, its deep things to which the average man on the street does not pay much attention; and so God has His deep things which are not for the world outside, but for those who have already received the gospel message.

Christ Himself warned His disciples against casting pearls before swine. What did he mean by that? Simply this, the unsaved man, the man who has never been regenerated, has no more ability to appreciate, to enter into and enjoy spiritual unfoldings than the swine has ability to set a value upon beautiful pearls. Therefore, the message for the unsaved is the gospel, but to the Lord's own people He did impart this hidden wisdom, that which none of the princes of this world knew, for, He says, "Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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."

In verse nine the Apostle is quoting from Isaiah 64:4 which says, "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him."

Real life is entered through the new birth. It is sustained and developed through the new wisdom of the Bible. It is matured and perfected and finally delivered back to its Creator and Redeemer under the sponsorship of Jesus Christ.

One fact that is fundamental to the Christian faith is that the Bible is a revelation of God and from God. Inspiration is how the Bible came while revelation is what it is. Inspiration is the cause and revelation is the effect. Inspiration is the inflow while revelation is the outflow. Inspiration is the method God used while revelation is the result of what God said. That is why we say that the Bible is a divine revelation which came by divine inspiration.

This word "revealed" marks the definiteness of the operation of the Holy Spirit in making known to believers the truths of the mystery of God's wisdom in and through the gospel of Christ in its fulness from the beginning of their life of faith onward. This revelation, which is impossible to the highest attainment of the natural mind, is the work of the Spirit, Who alone has the power of enlightenment.

God's promise is that the Holy Spirit will teach you all things. He is the revealer and teacher of the things of God. He reaches into the distant past, before the world was, and He tells us many things about the purposes of God. He describes unto us the time when Christ lived with the Father in the beginning. He also tells us about the days when the Saviour was here on earth. The same Spirit reaches into the future and tells us about the things to come. He opens up to us everything which God wants us to know about the things which God hath prepared for those who love Him.

Apart from divine revelation no man can understand what God has in store for His people in times to come. Since none but the human spirit can know what is in the human mind, so none but the Divine Spirit can know what are the thoughts, plans and purposes of God. This fact makes the illumination of the Holy Spirit essential in understanding and living according to the teachings of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit tells us about the things that God hath prepared. He also informs us about what He hath revealed. Both refer to the past and indicate that something has been done. The Old Testament speaks of times when there were great and wonderful mysteries which were kept hidden from all men; even the prophets themselves, as enlightened as they were, knew nothing of the special truths of this dispensation, but God has made them known now. The Old Testament gives us the preparation time. There we have God's people as children going to school, learning through symbols and types and shadows, but with no realization of the wonderful truths now made known. It is no wonder that Isaiah could say, "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." But all of that has changed today. Now our eyes do see, our ears do hear, and our hearts should be able to comprehend the wonderful things which God hath prepared for those linked up to Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ. "God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit," and so we still need the Old Testament, for the things written there were for our learning.

What a wonderful thing it is to think that we live in the dispensation of the grace of God! By the Holy Spirit God has now revealed these things formerly hidden from us, "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." It is through the Holy Spirit that we search and study and He opens the truth of God to us. The Spirit of God opens the truth to those who depend on Him. The Holy Spirit makes known the thoughts of God to us. We come to the Bible and study it in dependence on the Holy Spirit and He opens it up to us. The secret of getting the mind of God as you study His Word is to live in the power of an ungrieved Spirit and go to the Book in dependence on Him. It is the height of folly to expect to understand the Scriptures if we approach them from a carnal or intellectual standpoint.

"But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit." You can know them. God hath revealed them to us. His wisdom is unveiled or revealed to us. All these things that eye hath not seen, or ear heard, and never hath entered into the heart of man, these things are revealed to us by the Spirit.