

46-02-02.wpd --For Our Eyes Only

Holy Spirit, mysteries, knowledge, revelation, enlightenment

1 Cor 2:9-12

The more we embrace God's truth, the more the Holy Spirit will reveal.

INTRODUCTION: (text as Scripture reading)

--[In movies about *secret agents*, they are often handed packet of information and instructions with the words "FOR YOUR EYES ONLY" written across it. It means that their eyes alone are qualified and authorized to see that material.] The Gospel message is *spiritual*, and God must make a person *spiritually* qualified to see and accept it. That *qualifying process* is administered under the *authorization of the Holy Spirit*.

--**Pentecost** celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit in a corporate way for the establishment of the Church. But that coming also initiated a new pattern of relationship with the Holy Spirit. In OT times, the Holy Spirit only *came upon* certain individuals. Now the Holy Spirit *comes into* ALL believers, making their bodies into His temple.

--Anyone can read the Bible, but readers don't profit from it in the same way. Some see only an interesting religious book Some may experience an enlightenment that leads to conversion. Those already converted get to explore and understand their divine Christian inheritance. The job of the Holy Spirit is to *make us aware* of God's offer of salvation, but He also expounds and explains that salvation to us. **HOM.idea.**

I. It Is No Mystery That There Are Mysteries with God, v.9

- A. ("*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*") It's not strange that humans can't discover God's ideas and plans, because God Himself is a *mystery* [George Lucas, maker of the *Star Wars* films, said, "I put the Force in the movie in order to awaken a certain kind of spirituality in young people--more a belief in God than a belief in any particular religious system. I wanted to make it so that young people would begin to ask questions about the mystery. Not having enough interest in the mysteries of life to ask the question, 'Is there a God or is there not a God?'--this is for me the worst thing that can happen. I think you should have an opinion about that. Or you should be saying, 'I'm looking. I'm very curious about this and am going to continue to look until I can find an answer, and if I can't find an answer then I'll die trying.'"].
- B. Humans are made in our Creator's image; we have *wisdom and understanding*, as He does, but in comparison we are like a *tiny*

cloud of water molecules, while God is like a large galaxy filled with billions of stars larger than the Sun. There is no comparison-- Isa 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- C. BUT the mystery of God's plan for our salvation, and our future destiny in a renewed universe, was meant to be made known-- Eph 6:19. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly **make known the mystery** of the gospel.
1. It is a mystery, first because it was hidden in the past.
 2. Secondly, it's still a mystery to those who do not yet see and embrace it [like a *mystery novel*: it's no longer a mystery to those who've already read it, but it remains a mystery to those who haven't yet read it. In both cases it is called "a mystery," just as the Gospel is called a *mystery*.)]

TRANS: *It's no mystery that there are mysteries with God*, but most people fail to get passionate about learning the divine mysteries that God wants to reveal to them. They trust in *ideas from fellow humans* [like ideas in popular films, such as *Star Wars*], when they could know and trust in the *plans and purposes of their Creator*. The true Force of God, the Holy Spirit, is now in this world to teach God's truth to all who are open and willing to receive it. WE are in that group!

II. It Is No Mystery That God is a God of Revelation, v.10a

- A. ("*no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*"-- *but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit*) If we have been paying attention, we would expect that kind of behavior from God...
1. God is a God of revelation in nature (His glory as a creative Designer is broadcast throughout His creation-- Psa 19:1-4a. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.)
 2. God's revelation of Himself in nature is so obvious that He holds everyone accountable for knowing Him because of it-- Rom 1:20. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.
- B. BUT when it comes to His intimate involvement with humanity in

His salvation plan, God's revelation is more personal and direct. [This is what Jesus was trying to impress on the Pharisee Nicodemus, when He said, "*I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.*" You can use your eyes to see Churches, or your ears to hear preachers, or your mind to contemplate God's existence, but you can't know in your heart the reality of God's kingdom, which is "*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit,*" until you are born again by that Holy Spirit].

TRANS: This Gospel is a revelation "*For Our Eyes Only*," **not because we are an elite group. We understand the mystery of God's love only because we yielded to the Holy Spirit by placing our faith in Christ and in His work on the Cross. As we embrace the revelation of God in Christ, the Holy Spirit reveals more and more to our hearts.**

III. It Is No Mystery That the World Is Still Can't See It, v.10b-12

- A. The mind of God must be revealed by the Spirit of God-- v.10b-11, "*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*"
- B. People can only see what is revealed to them:
1. Without the Bible, people can see God in nature & conscience.
 2. In the OT, people got glimpses that God has an salvation plan.
 3. Even under Christ's ministry, His disciples did not see it clearly.
 4. Only after Pentecost could God's redemption plan be fully seen.
- C. Don't be surprised if your faith is *criticized* or *ridiculed* (Paul said Christ's Gospel was religiously *offensive* to Jews and intellectually *silly* to Greeks, (1 Cor 1:24) but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God**.

CONCLUSION:

--[Before the microscope and telescope, bacteria and galaxies were invisible, and if you went back in time to tell people about them, they would call you crazy] The world may call you "crazy" for believing in the glorious destiny provided for us through God's Son. It's because *they can't see it*. They don't have the microscopic and telescopic view we have through the Holy Spirit-- v.12, We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. God's Spirit is available both to a lost world, to bring enlightenment, and to us who believe. And the more we embrace God's truth, the more the Holy Spirit will reveal.

1 Cor 2:9-12 (NIV) However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- {10} but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. {11} For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. {12} We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.