

See, Hear, Imagine!

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1Cor. 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.

1Cor. 2:10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1Cor. 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

We have heard these verses used to suggest that we as the people of God cannot know what God has waiting for us in eternity. While it is true that we have only limited ability to imagine what things are prepared for us within the gates of everlasting rest, as we look at these verses today and the theme of them, I hope we will realize that the limit of what we may know right now about the vast glories that we will share with our Lord and Savior are limits we ourselves set by the level of spiritual aspirations we hold while here on earth. We are a lot like barbarians in the deep jungle who see, hear, and have feelings and understandings about the jungle around us, and use this knowledge to make an assumption that the whole world we live on is one vast jungle. What the Lord teaches us, though, is that we do not exist in a universe that is completely exposed to us by the senses and human reasonings we normally use as fleshly creatures. There is more. So, getting right to the message of God's word we find here let us notice:

I. V. 9: It is a fact, that the human eye, ear, and heart have been shut out from access to those things belonging to the glories of God which have been prepared for His people

- ❖ No human who has not experienced salvation by grace will ever be able to see, hear, or feel the things belonging to the children of God.
 - **The unsaved person is like the foolish people that the Lord rebuked in Jer. 5:21** "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; **which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not...."**
- ❖ So, there is a blindness that afflicts the natural man that cannot be overcome by earthly prescriptions

- Illustration: There is a great diversity of wavelengths of light in the universe; but the human eye can only see what we call the “visible spectrum.” All other light, such as that in the infrared or ultraviolet range the human eye cannot see. This accurately illustrates how the human eye is incapable of seeing the glorious things in the spiritual realm of God.
- ❖ Likewise, there is a deafness that possesses the carnal creature’s ear that no worldly power can overcome...no operation, no hearing aid can cure this deafness
 - The same scripture we read in **Jer. 5:21** describes this: "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding...**which have ears, and hear not....**"
 - **John 8:47** *He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*
 - As with eyesight being limited to certain light wave lengths, the ears of humans have limited ability to pick up certain sound waves. Illustration: Humans hear sounds somewhere in the range of 12 to 20,000 Hertz. Sound waves below or above (e.g. ultrasonic dog whistles-23,000-54,000 Hz) those levels cannot be heard. This is an excellent illustration of the human ear not being able to hear the things pertaining to what God has prepared for them that love Him.
- ❖ There is also a hardness of the internal senses of feeling and understanding of human beings that block out any possibility of sensing what lies within the spirit world, within the kingdom of God.
 - **Mat. 13:14-15** *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*
 - Illustration: Psychologists call this incapacity “rationalism.” It is about reasonableness. Reasonably, a world of perfect bliss does not exist. Reasonably, in a universe where creatures die a physical death, an eternal world where they can live forever has to be a fantasy. Reasonably, an orderly universe where death and destruction do not reign cannot exist. Reasonably, if something is real, there ought to be a way to measure it with the senses that we are born with and with the logic and perception skills we as humans have.
- ❖ So, beset by this incapacity, the human creature lacks the ability to perceive or

feel beyond the physical universe.

II. V.10: Believers are given special insight privileges into the things prepared for them

- ❖ The privilege belongs (according to our text) to them that love God
- ❖ The Spirit of God reveals them to us
 - v.12 - "Now we **have received**, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit** which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Here the Word makes the purpose of having the Spirit of God to be so **that we may know the things that are freely given to us of God.**"
 - Which agrees with Jesus' statement in **John 16:13** **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.**

III. What about the difference between the divine ideal and the reality in our lives?

- ❖ Our text is plain; God has set things up to allow us to see into the blessings prepared, to hear in plain terms about those prepared blessings, to be able to imagine or perceive with the heart those blessings. So, why is our reality so far from the divine ideal? It is because we daily set the limits on what we will comprehend about the great treasures of God.
 - First, we are so absorbed with the visible, the earthy, our own interpretation of the current reality, that we set limits on what we see:
 - See **2Kings 6:8-17 - The account of Elishah and his servant, at Dothan, surrounded by the Syrian army; the servant was stricken with fear and doesn't know what to do; Elishah prays for the Lord to show this servant what is real. Here's what we read about the event (vv. 15-17):** "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? **16** And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them. **17** And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, **the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire** round about Elisha.
 - Lesson: there is another reality in our present, every-day world. We have the opportunity to see it. Seeing it, changes things...and us.

- Second, we are trained by our human upbringing and the very human nature we possess to hear what is within the "frequency range" of hearing for the carnal creature; that range does not include the frequency range spoke by the Lord. So, at our best, we have conflict and difficulty hearing messages from the spirit world of God:
 - See **Exodus Ch.20:1, 22.**
 - **Exodus 20:1** And God spake all these words, saying,
 - **Exodus 20:22** And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.
 - **Heb. 1:1-2** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
 - Lesson: There are words from God to us. They contain messages about things prepared for us now and in the hereafter. Our natural man interferes with us hearing these things. We must listen with the ears of the new creature.
- Third, even when we are confronted with the realities of the spiritual world of God, we have barriers of unbelief or skepticism lurking in our hearts: See **Mark 6:49-52** (Christ comes walking on the water to join the disciples in their ship) "But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.** 51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. 52 For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."
 - Lesson: We have seen God work, yet our understanding is often so shallow, our faith so weak, and as a result, sometimes, our heart hardened, that we are limited by what we can imagine or grasp about the enormity of God's kingdom and His capacity.

IV. Conclusion

The Lord has given us of His Spirit that we may know what He has prepared for us. We can see, hear, and imagine and understand what those things are when we look with the spiritual eye, listen with the spiritual ear, and reason with the spiritual wisdom and understanding He has given us.