

THE GLORIES OF THE GOSPEL

I. Cor. 2:9

One day they told us boys at Millsaps that in the afternoon we could go down to the capitol and see the president of the U.S.A. It thrilled us so much that we could hardly contain ourselves. For indeed there was a great event coming into our lives in the near future. But there must have been a greater thrill in the hearts of the people when the great old prophet Isaiah stood up and said, that there was an event awaiting the children of men that could not be equaled by any thing that had ever happened before. "Why," said he, "It is so great that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the glories that await those who love God."

It seems that God chose to leave His prophets some what in the dark just as to the exact date when this was to come about. But it was to come nevertheless at the proper time and season. Years and centuries went on and one day Paul realizing that he stood at a time when the morning of the eventful day was bursting upon a long expectant world felt that he could not do better than to quote the old prophet. So he sang out, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man the glories that await those that love God."

There is difference of opinion as to when these glories come to the people who love God. Some commentators say that it refers to the next world while others make it to mean glories that came with the gospel age. The latter view is more likely correct. This wonderful event which the prophet saw and which Paul realizes is here was the great scheme of salvation—salvation itself which Jesus brought by His living, suffering, and dying. Nothing had ever been seen like it. In its significance no ear had ever heard of such a marvelous scheme. Neither had any human heart been able to conceive of such a plan. Only God could see and create such redemption.

This event ushered in the revelation of God as a loving Father. Not a tyrant ruling with anger in the mountains and in the clouds. But one tender and like a mother. One loving us better than an earthly father can love his children. Even to the point of giving His only child to die for us.

In it immortality was brought to light. Instead of standing by the tombs with some faint idea that our loved ones might return some time but not knowing any thing certain now they could bury their dead and we can put away ours KNOWING, thank God, that they and we shall live again because Jesus broke out of death's dungeon and flooded the world with the light of immortality. Indeed no eye had seen such, indeed no ear had heard such, nor had any heart conceived such for after such had come to pass there was scarcely an eye, ear, or heart that would say, "It is true."

Wonderful! I should say so. Just think will you, what have eyes seen? I see Adam as he awoke fresh from the hand of God looking upon a new world. Beheld the buoyant life all about him, the gorgeous foliage of Eden, and the luscious fruitage in every direction. Wonderful things his did see. Columbus after that tiresome voyage had a great treat in store when his eyes looked upon a new world. You have

had your soul crammed so full of beauty that you could hardly keep back the tears as you began to meditate some afternoon and chanced to see in that wonderful picture gallery of the west the great sun as he seemed to sink in an ocean of flaming glory. And an hour later to see the lights turned on through a whole universe. These were great things for eyes to see. The sisters of Lazarus saw him come back from the dead and that was almost unthinkable.

Even so the ears of men have heard the oratory of the world. Demosthenes who practiced against the waves of the sea until his oratory was perfected to the nth power has been heard by human ears. Nature's choir has played and sung till its music set vibrating the heart strings of our poets and they have given us the grand old hymns that cheer and bless the world as we hear them. We have heard some of the great musicians of the world. Man's ears even heard angels sing in the night when Jesus was born. Wonderful things to hear!

In men's hearts have been fine ideas that have worked out to great inventions and discoveries. They have had hopes that would not let them stop when mountains fell across their pathway. They have had inspirations that death could not separate them from. Wonderful things in the hearts of men!

The things seen, heard, and felt by man aside from a real knowledge of this wonderful salvation are nothing. For how can these things seen, heard, and felt outside of salvation compare to seeing a sinner come to the altar, hear him shout victory as he surrenders to Christ, and let him feel the cleansing BLOOD of Jesus.

We do not fully appreciate the privilege we have in this gospel age. Why this salvation which is ours if only we will accept it is so extraordinary that Peter tells us that the angels desire to look into it. Do we appreciate it and accept it? If we do then certain things are going to happen.

1. We will love the church and will not be indifferent to it.
2. We will give time and money to it and do so gladly.
3. We will demonstrate changed and transformed lives.

What I have said is not all. But this salvation brings to you and me a hope. This hope is a door that opens to a world of eternal joy and peace. A world with greater glories than we can possibly have here. Even Paul who speaks so powerfully concerning the glories here in the gospel, says that we see here through a glass but darkly, but then face to face. Now we know in part but then we shall know even as we are also known.

Then dear friends let us receive afresh this gospel to day and be demonstrators to the world that we have this salvation in our hearts which makes us love with a love of self giving and which keeps us from evil.