

Overview

Main idea: God must reveal spiritual truth

“Reveal”==Gk. *apokalypto*: to unveil

1. We need to be unveiled
2. The Holy Spirit lifts the veil
3. We can live with unveiled faces
4. We can lift the veil for others

I. We Need to be Unveiled (v.9-10)

- Natural man is blind
- Saved man is still nearsighted
- God’s mystery is only revealed to His children

Col. 1:27: “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of *this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*”

Q: What has God prepared for His people?

A: The New Covenant

- All that is ours in Christ
- Do you know that exhaustively? Experientially?
- The Spirit teaches us to tap into what we have already been blessed with in covenant

1. **A New Identity**

- Purchased
- Possessed
- Loved
- Holy

2. **A New Inheritance**

- Life
- Relationship
- Home
- Position (kings, priests, seated in heavenly places)
- Possessions—world
- Knowledge—doctrine, wisdom
- Power—gifts, callings, anointing

3. **A New Intimacy**

- Adopted

- Befriended
- Indwelt
- Married
- Trusted (depths of God)

II. The Holy Spirit Lifts the Veil (v. 10-11)

1. This is a **personal** revelation
 - No knowledge without relationship
 - No revelation without trust (obedience and fellowship)

Ps. 25:14: “The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.”

2. This is a **deep** revelation

Eph. 3:15-19: “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

3. This is a **complete** revelation—Christ in you, the final Word and Truth of God
4. This is an **ongoing** (daily, momentary) revelation—the Spirit searches

Caution: The veil can fall again if *the spirit of the world* takes possession of the mind (“the mind set on the flesh”). Our vision then becomes clouded, our hearts calcify, and our love grows cold toward heavenly things.

- **Remedy:** **Fast**; retreat; Plead promises of mercy in the new covenant; Persist in seeking God through scriptures and prayer and service to others

III. We Can Live with Unveiled Faces (v. 12)

We have access to the mystery:

1. Our access is here—*NOW*
2. Our access is free—*given us*
3. Our access is admittance (not destination)—that we *might* understand

***Growing Self-Disclosure from God

- Master/apprentice

- Student/teacher—Jer 31, 1 John 2
- Lenses on binoculars
- Floodlight in darkness—Eph. 1:17
- Pushing the car

4. Our access is for **adoration**

“But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

IV. We Lift the Veil for Others (v. 13)

- We impart God’s mystery
- We impart this: the gospel, which reveals the glory of Jesus

2 Cor. 4:3-6: And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

- As the Spirit reveals Christ *to* us, He begins to reveal Christ *through* us
- May the Spirit teach us to be taught Christ by the Spirit!
- It’s through continual access into the mystery of the gospel that we think God’s thoughts and know Him with depth
- God is our Teacher and Interpreter