

Hebrews 7.11

Perfect Understanding

From the very beginning, God has shown His plan and will in a long series of progressive revelation. This revelation was by nature incomplete, giving enough light for the thing needed at the moment. But underneath it was always the promise of Christ who would complete the revelation and bring us into the fullness of understanding that is promised to the children of light... In Jesus this has been fulfilled. The Old Testament priesthood gave incomplete understanding, but our understanding has been made whole in Jesus Christ...

The Old Testament priesthood gave shadows and hints, but in Jesus our understanding has been made perfect...

The Old Testament priesthood was itself incomplete and unable to save, but the High Priest we have in Christ is perfect and whole and able to save to the uttermost...

We have perfect righteousness, perfect peace, and this morning we consider our perfect understanding.

I. INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE

- A. Partial revelation
- B. Imperfect understanding
- C. Driven by fallen minds and hearts which were opposed to God

Ezekiel 36.16-21

- D. The refusal of man to hear the will of God in the law would be reversed by God when Messiah comes

Deuteronomy 18:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

- E. The change would be driven by a new and godward heart which God would give

Ezekiel 36:25–28 (NKJV) ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ Then you shall

dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

II. THE OT SHADOWS

A. Shadow of good to come –

Hebrews 10:1 (NKJV) ¹ For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

B. Hidden in God -

Ephesians 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

C. Parables and dark sayings –

Psalms 78:2–3 (NKJV) ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³ Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

D. Not even the prophets saw clearly what they were prophesying

1 Peter 1:10–12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied

of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

E. Hence the people of God waited for the promised light -

Isaiah 11:9 (NKJV) ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 54:13 (NKJV) ¹³ All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children.

F. And that promised light included promised life

Jeremiah 31:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord.

For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

III. THE MIND OF CHRIST

1Corinthians 2.6-16

- A. Revealing the hidden things
- B. Revealing the focus of the plan
 - 1. Before the system only showed us how far we were and how great was our need of a savior
 - 2. Now the focus of God's revelation is the majesty of our redemption in Christ
- C. It is still a mystery to those who are outside of grace
 - 1. The mystery assures that all things proceed according to the plan of God
 - 2. The mystery demonstrates the incredible depth of God's purpose in love for us
- D. But God has revealed to us the mystery of His will
 - 1. The fullness of His love
 - 2. The scope of His purposes
 - 3. The incredible reasons for His work of redemption which includes
 - a. Justification

- b. Sanctification
 - c. Glorification
 - d. Consummation
4. The singularity of this revelation - God has revealed it to US, the maker of all things has shown us His perfect plan
- E. God calls us to speak truth revealed and demonstrated in Scripture
- F. Those outside of Christ will reject it
- G. Those being called will receive it
- H. We who are found in Christ see clearly by His grace...

IV. THE PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- A. God intends us to know His will - He has given us His own will in the prayers of Scripture
1. That which God gives us to pray in Scripture are certain! He will always answer His own will "yes" - so when the Apostles wrote prayers in Scripture we can know that God intends to answer these requests with a resounding "YES" which we know comes from the person of Christ

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

B. Revelation –

Ephesians 1.15-21

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Hope
4. Light

C. Power in Love –

Ephesians 3.14-21

1. Strength
2. Comprehension
3. Love
4. Fullness

D. Transformation –

Ephesians 5.8-14

1. Becoming children of Light
2. Knowing what God desires
3. Walking IN that knowledge
4. Light and life, understanding and transparency

E. Calling –

1Peter 2.9-10

1. Chosen generation
2. Royal priesthood
3. Proclaim Him
4. Made into
 - a. The people of God
 - b. Recipients of Great Mercy