

WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT COMES *1 Corinthians 13:11-13*

Our Bible is unabridged (we have all 66 books that God intended) but our knowledge of God is not _____
We know “in part” and we know part by part: we must _____ this part with that part; we must connect the dots
Our partial knowledge of God will come to an end when that which is _____ shall come, but when is that?

I. THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE PERFECT SHALL COME

- A. The Perfect Is Not the _____ of the NT Canon
 - 1) At this early point, the Corinthians would not have understood the concept of the _____
 - 2) _____ was not made inoperative by the completion of the NT; it is yet to be fulfilled even now
- B. The Perfect Is Not the _____
- C. The Perfect Is Not the _____
- D. The Perfect Is the _____ State
 - 1) In the Eternal State, all prophecy will be made inoperative for by that point, all will be _____
 - 2) The Eternal State will make _____ inoperative for it will be superseded by direct experience

II. THREE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE PERFECT

- A. “When I was a _____ ... when I became a _____”
 - 1) Paul compares our most profound thoughts about God to the babblings of a _____
 - 2) At a decisive point in his life (perhaps his *bar mitzvah*) Paul once & for all put away _____ things
 - a) The “childish things” that will become inoperative at this point refer to prophecy and _____
 - b) Paul’s testimony teaches young _____ to make this same decision and put away childish things
- B. “In a mirror, dimly, but then _____”
 - 1) A mirror reflection is always reversed & _____ ; our knowledge of God can be likewise puzzling
 - 2) In the Eternal State, we will not need the _____ anymore for we will see God face to face
- C. “Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am _____”
 - 1) ESV translation: Now I know in part; then I shall know _____ , even as I have been _____ known
 - 2) In eternity, we will not be omniscient or _____ but like Christ we will be face to face with God

III. THE PREEMINENCE OF AGAPE LOVE

- A. In v.13 Paul focuses on the here “and now”—on 3 mechanisms by which God works in our _____
 - 1) _____ lays hold of the promises of God by looking back to history—Jesus’ death & resurrection
 - 2) _____ lays hold of the promises of God by looking forward to the future that God has promised us
 - 3) _____ is the mechanism in our souls by which we take on the nature of God & become like Him
- B. Paul’s statement implies that these 3 as a unit are central to the Christian life, _____ are not
- C. Why is love the greatest of these three: faith, hope and love?
 - 1) Because love is _____ ; faith and hope will no longer function in eternity as they do now, love will
 - 2) Because love is the _____ of God; God the Father is never said to exercise faith or hope
- D. Paul leads us to draw the final conclusion for ourselves: I must invest my life in _____ not spiritual gifts