

SEEKING TO KNOW

"As to this salvation,
the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you
made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time
the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating
as He predicted the sufferings of the Christ and the glories to follow.
It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you,
in these things which have now been announced to you through those who
preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven
- things which the angels long to look."

1 Peter 1:10-12

I guess I've always been curious by nature, or just nosey, maybe, but I like to know things that are going on around me. Perhaps I should have been a reporter so I could interview people and get the scoop. At the very least, I want to be a friend of God's, so He'll fill me in on His plans, as He did for Abraham. But sometimes, in fact, most times, He doesn't fill us in on ALL the details. Don't misunderstand, God loves to reveal Himself to us. We seek Him, we will find Him. He's all about revelation, and never keeps us completely in the dark. but He tends to let us know exactly enough to help us accomplish the purpose He has for us.

Read Psalm 119:105.

He asks us to walk in faith, but not blindly, as He's shown Himself worthy of trust time and again, and given us His word in order to reveal Himself and His plan, not to mention

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our Helper, His Spirit who is to lead us into all truth (John 16:13-15). He's a discloser, but He also wants us to trust Him with where things are going. So, don't be surprised when He only sheds enough light on our individual path for the next step. When we get confused about where to go next, all we need to do is dig into His word, and submit to His Spirit's leading. We may not see the whole picture but He will illumine the next step.

God told the prophets of old a mystery, portioned morsels of a magnificent promise of One who was coming that would save the world, this Someone would have to suffer to do so, but after, would come glory that had never been seen before.

Read what the prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 53:1-12 Does anything sound familiar to what has taken place since that prophecy was written?

Just put yourself in these prophet's sandals for a minute. Each of them had the Spirit of God come visit them, they were given increments of a mystery called grace; becoming totally intrigued, they began to diligently inquire and search into the reality of this grace salvation that was to come, wondering in fact, when would it come, and whom would it be. Like a treasure being held out of reach in front of them, they could only marvel at the little they had been told and seek to know more.

They understood that God's plan called for a Savior who would suffer, and came to understand that this manifestation of grace salvation was not to be in their day, but at a later time - our time, in what's called "The Church Age." The prophecy was not for them, but for us.

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Dr. Welch clarifies though, "*Old Testament believers were also saved by grace through faith. However, theirs was a faith in anticipation and ours is a faith in fulfillment. They looked forward to that grace becoming a reality. We look back upon the historical reality of it. It was the manifestation of this grace which was limited to those of this age. They were recipients of a grace yet to be manifested.*"

Grace, God's Righteousness (Realm and Riches) At Christ's Expense. Receiving what we could never earn. God's mercy, and our great need, translated into a gift of salvation.

We now have the mystery revealed. Look at Colossians 2:1-3. What is the mystery?

What does verse 3 say about Him?

Do you remember when you first sensed you needed a Savior. What were the emotions that developed as that came to light?

What was your response?

When one is confronted by the Holy Spirit of God, you quickly realize, there's no comparison nor compatibility between God's perfection and your sinfulness. The Apostle

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Paul was confronted as he walked the road to Damascus (Acts 9). He wrote of sin thoroughly in the book of Romans. We've all "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) We were doomed for eternity separated from God and headed for the lake of fire.

Look up Ephesians 2:4-7 - BUT GOD, (don't you love those words!) What did His mercy do?

Did you recognize the "inheritance" aspect of all He did for us? Our position is firmly placed IN Christ, and He's seated right next to the Father. From pauper to princess. We've been saved when we could not save ourselves.

In 1 Peter 1:12, we see even the angels longed for a look into how God was going to reconcile sinful man to His holiness. The word for "long" is the same as having a "*craving passionate desire*" and the picture is of them stooping down to look into this mystery called grace. They lived in His presence and still they had to watch the story unfold. Can you imagine the amazement as they learned it would be God Himself who would bring about this glorious reconciliation. Part of the Triune God would leave their heavenly place to come and suffer and die for man's salvation. The gospel message, was finally revealed, but not before hundreds of years would pass by. How blessed we are to be on this side of the cross! How blessed we are to have salvation.

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The word for "salvation" means deliverance. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have been delivered from eternal torment. Your salvation, your inheritance, secured in the body of Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 - Where is this treasure now?

But the longing isn't over, not for the angels, nor for us, because there's so much more to the story coming. The word regarding the angels longing to know, is in the present tense, meaning it's a continuous action, they keep on passionately desiring to understand the mysteries of grace. What is it they want to see? The "glories" yet to be revealed.

The word for "glory" in verse 11 is "doxa" and means, *honor or esteem resulting from a good opinion based upon one's character*. The use of the plural for "glories" indicates that this is a reference to the honor and esteem of believers in Christ.

Look up 2 Corinthians 3:18 - What does it say about glory?

Yet, another fact of God's grace to marvel at. We are being changed, from character trait to character trait, to look more like Christ Jesus. No wonder they are stooping down to watch!

May we each be diligent students of God's word, and *seek to know* all that He would have us know so that we give those angels a show worth waiting for, living only and completely for God's glory.

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Review:

- God illumines our path (Psalm 119:105)
- Leads us into all truth (John 16:13-15).
- Prophets foretold but searched diligently to know (Isaiah 53:1-12; 1 Peter 1:10-12)
- Mystery revealed (Colossians 2:1-3)
- Our position in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- Angels longed to know (1 Peter 1:12)
- Treasure in us (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)
- Being changed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18)