

***“If They Had Known ...  
Part 2”***

**Our Scripture Today:**

***Today we live in the light of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. So those words written by the apostle Paul many years after his resurrection still ring true: “He is risen and become the first fruits of them that slept ...” 1 Cor. 15:20. But as we have so often seen in reading the gospel accounts of that resurrection day, there was much ignorance, unbelief, and even blindness on the hearts even of those that loved their Lord so very much that they were there at the tomb early on that very special Sunday morning.***

***There is no wonder in that. Even though the message of the coming redeemer is an old message indeed, even today so few, sadly, have come to know and love it. Blindness is deep and so wide spread in this dark world. Indeed, the message of the coming redeemer is a message that was from the very beginning opposed by Satan with his murders and lying wonders.***

***The prophetic record was all about Israel and God’s redemptive plan for them though it was clear that before Israel was constituted salvation was available as Abraham’s faith had proven so clearly.***

***But that the Gentiles might be saved independently of Israel would have been, as Paul writes in 1 Cor. 2, simply impossible for the plan of God did not allow it. The princes of this world, whether in the heavenlies, or on this earth, did not know this and in fact could not have as we shall explain later.***

***Again, may God give us understanding of the great blessings granted to us Gentiles according to the riches of his abundant grace, even the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

**Our Outline Today:**

- ***What They Knew (or, Should Have Known) — According to Prophecy***
- ***What They Could Never Have Known — According to the Mystery***

***I. What They Knew (or, Should Have Known) — According to Prophecy:***

- ***What Did They Know (or should they have known) About Christ and His Resurrection?***

- *We all know the story well as given in the resurrection accounts in the gospels. Early in the morning the women had come to the tomb, then later a few of the apostles. The stone had been rolled away and angels were present to greet them. Christ himself also appeared to Mary Magdalene. She wanted to touch and hold on to him — but he refused that saying that he must first go into the heavenlies. Let's begin this morning in Lk. 24:*

**[READ ] Lk. 24:6-11**

**6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,**

**7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.**

**8 And they remembered his words,**

**9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.**

**10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary [the mother] of James, and other [women that were] with them, which told these things unto the apostles.**

**11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.**

**...**

**Lk. 24:18-27**

**18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?**

**19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:**

**20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.**

**21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.**

**22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;**

**23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.**

**24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found [it] even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.**

**25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**

**26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

**27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**

- ***“Oh fools”, these are harsh words for sure, but true. I am sure those who heard the Lord say that that day never forgot them. What about us? Are we fools too as they were?***
- ***What They Knew (or, should have known) — To summarize:***
  - ***Regarding the Seed of the Woman (Gen. 3:15) - The seed will be the ultimate and final victor over the serpent - “it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”***
  - ***Regarding the Types, the Suffering Servant, and the Redeemer (Prophet, Priest, King)***

***Psalm 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. This was quoted by Peter in Acts 2 and clearly David was a type of Christ in so many ways. David boldly and in great detail testified as to the resurrection of Christ and his Psalms are filled with these prophecies.***

***[READ ] Is. 53:3-6 [The suffering servant]***

**3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

**4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**5 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

**6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

***Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

- ***Prophecy is all about God's plan "from", not "before", the foundation of the world which necessarily required Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as the prophets David and Isaiah wrote. So Christ also in his earthly ministry spoke of these things. When we get to the book of Revelation we see the culmination of that plan that was a plan of redemption "from" the foundation of the world.***
- ***As Christ Himself Revealed It***
  - ***Most of Christ's earthly ministry is about his Messiahship which of course was to be based on his Death and then His Resurrection — in short, the Gospel of the Kingdom:***
    - ***He would suffer, die, and be raised again (Mk. 8:31; 9:31; 10:34)***
    - ***He had a baptism to be baptized with (Lk. 12:50)***
    - ***He prophecies regarding "this temple" being destroyed. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up ..." (John 2:19-22)***
    - ***But the full benefits of salvation under this gospel were surely different from what we have today under the Dispensation of the Grace of God as we shall see later.***
- ***According to Sacred History? ... The gospel accounts***
  - ***What is the scriptural context of our Lord's public ministry? What did they know, or rather, should they have known, that they then would NOT have crucified him? Who knew? Who knew what the prophets had written? Who knew the truth? Not the leaders of the nation of Israel, not the apostles, not the people of Israel, and not Pilate. Remember Pilate's fateful question: "What is truth ... I find in him no fault at all."? See John 18:37. We know these words so well, don't we? Or, do we?***

***Perhaps we remember the words but can't quite grasp the full meaning of them ...***

- **Indeed, Truth had “fallen in the street” as Isaiah the prophet had written many centuries earlier (Is. 59:14)**
- **But it had come to be that our precious Lord Jesus, so meek and so mild, the friend of sinners, our savior and redeemer, was, as it were, “appointed unto death, even the death of the cross”, and all, even his own people turned against him:**
- **Ignorant of what had already been revealed about the redemptive plan of God, the Jewish people even dared to call out in unbelief of what had been written with these damning words: “Crucify him, crucify him!” AND THEY DID!**
- **“It is finished” (John 19:30) followed, his last words on the cross. It was noon and it was dark, perhaps darker than it had ever been before. Well, he was buried and after three days gloriously raised from the dead, praise be to God. Though death IS a snare, the “Snares of death could not hold him” - remember the sure mercies of David (Ps. 18:5).**
- **And so we come to that most blessed morning: After three days, early in the morning came the women to the tomb, not in faith, but unbelieving. BUT THEY SAW THAT THE LORD WAS RISEN INDEED! BUT THEIR TESTIMONY WAS NOT BELIEVED!:**

**[READ ] Lk. 24:10-11 “It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.” [See also Mk. 16:2& 9; Lk. 24:1, Jn. 20:1]**

- **But, by God’s grace and enabling power, there were a great many eye witnesses beyond these initial women at the empty tomb (Acts 1:21-22). And there were many, and finally, even one who was “Born Out of Due Time”, the apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15:8). So many became witnesses and shared their testimonies, some in writing in this book we have been opened before us, and I think especially of what has been written by John, by Peter, and, of course, by our beloved brother Paul. BUT IT TOOK TIME BEFORE THEY CAME TO KNOW WHAT THEY ULTIMATELY PREACHED AND LIVED.**

- *But they should have known at the least what had been revealed concerning God's plan of redemption as it was revealed "from the foundation of the world". They had those books available to them and they even had the living word in their very midst for some years. But, they were even ignorant of that, not counting what had never been yet revealed according to the Sacred Secret Given to Paul later. It is hard for us today looking back to those days and seeing their foolish ignorance so transparently displayed. But we have "the rest of the story" through Paul and that has made such a difference, hasn't it?*

*In that later revelation we find even more revealed — much more as we have so often seen in our studies down through the years. While "Prophecy" speaks to the plan of God revealed "after" the foundation of the world, the "sacred secret" or "mystery" is about the plan of God given "before" the foundation of the world. This is an important distinction indeed which we must grasp or we stand also in risk of being "fools" as they were.*

*I have asked the question, "What did they know", or rather, "what should they have known"? Now the question changes to "What could they not have known?" For neither God's people, or their own prophets, or even the apostles, and surely not even the rulers of this world, even Satan himself, could have known the rest of the story, for it had never been written.*

## **II. What They Could Never Have Known — According to the Mystery ["What Had Eye Not Seen Nor Ear Heard?"]**

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 2:7-10**

**7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:**

**8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

**10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 1:30-31**

**30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

- ***From before the foundation of the world there was a plan that included us! Praise God. The plan from after was for Israel (and the Gentiles for you realize that after the nation of Israel is saved the Gentiles will also be saved **THROUGH** Israel's witness) and the Kingdom. The "from before" revelation was all about God's gracious plan for us and the infinite blessings of the Dispensation of the Grace of God! Unlimited grace makes such a difference.***
  - ***Eph. 1:4*** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him, in love having predestinated us ... ***["in him", as we have seen before, speaks of our "positional" and heavenly relationship to Christ with all of the blessings based on that heavenly relationship]***
  - ***Col. 3:1-4 [Again, this is "positional" truth of the highest level]***
    - 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
    - 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
    - 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
    - 4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
  - ***2 Tim. 1:8-10***
    - 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;
    - 9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
    - 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:
  - ***Tit. 1:2*** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; ***[God promised it then - among the persons of the Trinity, it would seem, before the world began]***
- ***"Christ was raised a life giving spirit" (1 Cor. 15:45) See also Rom. 1:1-4 and so very many other scriptures in Paul's letters. This is his major theme. Our life is Christ's and the abundance of grace is our***

***gift (Rom. 5:17) and there are so very many, many more blessings we have received through the glorious death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.***

- ***We have even come to possess a new nature therefore and with that the Holy Spirit himself. And so we may live in newness of life! Amen. Such power. Such glory. Such grace.***
- ***Even Eternal Life here and now:  
Rom. 6:21 “That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”***
- ***Our Heavenly Hope and Expectation — The Rapture of the Church which is His Body (1 Thess. 4, 5 & 2 Thess. 2)***
- ***So, to summarize, our faith is eternal with many additionally promised blessings already present with us today (and these we are able to enter into as we continue to receive the abundance of grace (Rom. 5:17, etc.):***

- ***The privilege of Suffering with our blessed Lord:***

***2 Cor. 4:11-12*** “For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.” ***[See also Col. 1:25-29]***

- ***Our Eternal Weight of Glory:***

***2 Cor 4:15-18***

15 For all things [are] for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.



- ***Ah, the scope of this, the grandeur or it, the glory of it!  
And all based on the resurrection our blessed Lord  
Jesus - alive for ever more and us with him.***
- ***Christ's death and resurrection ensure the death and resurrection of all! Some to life and others to everlasting death — who is sufficient for these things? Our resurrection is not only something wonderful to be anticipated, it is to be enjoyed today? Physically we have not been given new life. But spiritually we surely have. And the rest awaits his heavenly call. It might be today, or tonight. Are we awaiting his call?***

**1 Cor. 2:6-10**

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

**7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:**

**8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**Rom. 11:33-36**

*33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

*34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*

*35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*

*36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

***Praise God for his unsearchable riches!***