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Our First Member's Advantage

A Strong Faith In God Yields What He Has Prepared For You

By: Pastor Harold Cobb

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV); "However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

We are quick to read this verse and apply it to the future. It is appropriate to be reminded of what is in store for us in heaven will be greater than we have seen, heard, or even imagined in this world. After all, this world is corrupted with sin. There is discouragement, discontent, brokenness and gloom on every hand. Our news media is filled with murders, school shootings, teen gang activities, drug abuse – thus, we find every state with the construction of prison among their top priorities. We are appalled by the acts of violence, HIV epidemic, Hoof and Mouth disease and other diseases that are destroying our communities, brought about because of our own sinful, self-centered ways.

To Paul, this verse spelled out comfort, confidence and security. It meant more: He had a great expectation that at any moment, something great would happen. We, too, as followers of Christ should not place ourselves within a box, looking to the future, but God is also a "right now God."

As gloomy as the present may be, our life is centered in the living Christ. The range and inspiration of our faith springs from that mighty event—in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. That same God who raised Jesus from the dead is equal to any possibility. To those who have a receptive and expectant faith, the gates of the future are filled with unexpected possibilities. These gates were open widely by Christ. How good it is to have a firm grasp of such a faith at all times and to know that God has prepared not only a future for us, but, a wonderful life in this present age.

For the resourcefulness of God is seen in the creative process. That same truth is illustrated in the lives and characters of men and women who love the Lord. When God is given the opportunity to work in the life of humanity, things that the eye has not seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has conceived are open and possible in the "here and now" for those who love the Lord!

It is here that Paul, whose magnificent mind impassioned by the Christian worldview, gives us every incentive to abandon ourselves to one who came to be our life, joy and peace.

I encourage you to hold fast to faith! Let nothing diminish the flame in your hearts. What God has for you will outdistance your highest spiritual imagination. What God has for us is now, as well as in our future! "This is the day that the LORD had made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24 NIV).

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