

Morning Sermon July 27, 2014
"What We SEE" 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Thoughts about Christian artwork, posters and 1st Corinthians 2:9 ...

I. *What is the primary focus? What has eye not seen, nor ear heard ... what has God "revealed" "to us?"*

⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

1. *What does the context show us? The Context shows us Paul was talking about and emphasizing, Christ's cross –*

¹⁸ For the message of the CROSS is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

^{NKJ} 1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1Corinthians 2:1-2 NKJ)

2. *If eye has not seen, nor ear heard ... nor has this entered men's hearts, refers to the CROSS, what does that mean?*

A. *Men who are perishing consider the cross "foolishness" – 1 Corinthians 1:18*

B. *Understanding, comprehending, appreciating Christ's cross requires a spiritual understanding; and this is something we just do not HAVE NATURALLY –*

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (1Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

II. *What do people NOT see, when they do NOT SEE the cross?*

1. *They do not the greatness of, or the misery of, or the misery caused by, their sin! Sin is a comparably little thing to us until we understand it in terms of Christ's cross –*

A. *We don't realize sin causes death –*

¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17 NKJ)

²³ For the wages of sin is death... (Rom 6:23a NKJ)

This verse, which talks about "WAGES" speaks about what sin earns for us, what sin deserves, which is death!

B. *Yet even more people do not realize, sin even beyond death can drag us down to Hell -*

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, `Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41 NKJ)

C. *What we do not see, until we see the cross is that all death is due to MORAL FAILURE and is a result of God's righteous and holy judgment of sin –*

D. *We not only do not see this, we do not WANT to see this! We want to see ourselves as beautiful, righteous, holy, good or at least pretty good or more good than bad ... but God tells us – ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NKJ)*

¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

We like to think though we may sin occasionally that our hearts are basically "good" but Jesus Himself tells us –

¹⁹ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19 NKJ)

We'd like to think our spiritual sin problems are aspirin only problems, but God tells us they are heart surgery PROBLEMS –

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. (Ezekiel 36:26 NKJ)

2. *If I were not telling you these things, I would be a false prophet –*
¹⁴ **They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJ)**

3. *When people do NOT SEE the cross they do not see that it is the ONLY remedy for the dread disease of sin, it is the EXPENSIVE remedy that redeems us –*

⁴ **Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by 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 has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJ)**

¹⁸ *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1Peter 1:18-19 NKJ)*

Our sin problem was so bad; that NOTHING LESS than the Son of God's dying could take care of it!

III. Yet, this is the WONDERFUL thing which EYE has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man –

1. *The natural man does not expect a humble, dying Savior –*
^{NKJ} **John 19:1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." ⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" (John 19:1-6 NKJ)**

A. *The Jews wanted a Messiah who would out-Roman the Romans, yet God's Ways are not our ways –*

⁸ **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJ)**

They wanted such a Messiah because they thought they were better than the Romans, the cross and "crucify Him, crucify Him" proved they were NOT!

B. *The entire account shows as I have already said "none were righteous" Romans 3:10-11*

1. *God knew Jesus NEEDED to die for our sins:*

A. *Jesus' cross shows us God's righteousness –*

²¹ **But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Roman 3:21-26 NKJ)**

B. *Yet, it also shows us God's LOVE –*

⁶ **For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8 NKJ)**

¹⁶ **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

¹⁷ **"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 NKJ)**

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 is not a poster of Heaven but a description of God's posterizing of sin, death and Hell on the cross –

Posterized is North American slang^[1] derived from an action in the game of basketball, in which the offensive player "dunks" (see slam dunk) over a defending player in a play that is spectacular and athletic enough to warrant reproduction in a printed poster.^[2] The term is also derisive in that when a defending player is 'posterized' — he or she is considered to have been humbled, shamed, and exposed as an inferior athlete.

WE have only one God authorized picture of this: the Lord's Supper!

Arnold A. Brevick