

THINGS NOT SEEN OR KNOWN (DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY)

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Introduction: "I wish I had known about.....," "I wish I knew what is going to happen..." Everyone at one time or other wishes he/she could see around the corner, what was going to happen. There are people who claim to be able to do just that and so some go to them for "advice." If we did know what was going to happen in the future we say that we could plan more wisely and be more successful in preparing for what was coming. However there could be some unhealthy attitudes developed IF one could actually see what the future held for him/her. So perhaps it is best that God has hidden things from us.

I. NOT KNOWING THE FUTURE CAN BE PROFITABLE

1. Eagerness to know the future comes from the habit of valuing wisdom, success, knowledge and ease, which all would seem to be invaluable, however for character strength, it is better not to know.
2. Anticipation, waiting, expecting seldom is a positive time for it often brings disappointment.
 - Waiting can bring fear, anxiety, impatience and makes one a pessimist in spirit.
 - A pessimist was heard to remark, "Well, I've never been disappointed as a pessimist, always doubting, etc., but I have been pleasantly surprised many times when things worked out for the good, opposite of what I expected..."
3. The disciples asked Jesus about God's future plans and they were told very plainly, "*...it's not for you to know...*"
 - If the disciples could have seen what was coming for them, they would have been scared to death and might not have followed through as they did.
 - "*...sufficient to each day is its hardships...*"
4. It is to our good that the future stays unknown.

II. THE UNKNOWN IS REVEALED IN PARTS

1. "*...Thy Word is a lamp, a light, unto my path...*"
 - To those who are ready to obey God, God reveals "outlines" of their duties.
 - Those who are prepared to hear, God's Word comes to their hearts.
 - Experience is one of God's teachers and thus reveals things of God to those experiencing things.
 - God has "schools" of faith for those who are strong enough to trust Him.
2. "*...'we' know in whom we have believed...*"
 - No one knows what is ahead, but Christians know in whom they have entrusted their entire lives.
 - "*...through a glass darkly....know in part....now abideth faith, hope, love...*"
 - Not knowing is only partial for God reveals by the Holy Spirit all that WE (Christians) need to know at any given moment.

III. THE UNKNOWN TO US IS KNOWN BY GOD

1. Israel was in the wilderness for many, many years, dangerous and wearying and seemingly going in circles but God knew what He was doing, although Israel did not.
 - *"...He led them by a straight way.." "...known unto God all His ways from the beginning..."*
 - "...He knoweth the way of the righteous..," "...My times are in His hand, who doeth all things well..."*
2. Israel had promises when entering the land of Canaan.
 - *"...He it is that goeth before you..," "...the land whither ye go is a land of hills and valleys, a land which the Lord thy God careth for, the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year..."*
3. Things which are hidden to us have been prepared by God and life for the Christian is a matter of experiencing what God has already prepared.
 - Consider how salvation has been already prepared.
 - Consider God's Kingdom prepared before the foundation of the world.
 - Consider God's table already prepared in the presence of His enemies.
 - Consider the Christian's already prepared place (many mansions) in heaven.
 - Consider the Holy City awaiting the Children of God.
4. For the Christian, every day is stepping out into the unknown to him/her, but already prepared by God.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's love has already prepared the way for those who believe in His Son, Jesus and for those who believe, although they don't know what each day will bring, knowing that God has already prepared it for them brings comfort and assurance that God will be with them, no matter what.
2. Remember the words to that great song, "...I don't worry about the future, I just live from day to day..."
3. Christian, wait upon the Lord and love Him with all your heart and soul for He cares for YOU and has your days already planned out.