

# **Through a Glass Darkly**

## Lesson 1

1 Corinthians 2:6-16, 13:8-13; 1 John 3:1-3; Revelation 21:3-5

November 26, 2023

### **The Now and the Not Yet**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Christians speak the language of Heaven because we are citizens of Heaven. And in the same way someone from France would probably not understand Japanese, it's sometimes difficult for the world to understand the language and perspectives of Christians. This citizenship of Heaven creates a difficult dichotomy for a Christian. We know that we don't belong in this world, and we long for Heaven, but we live in a foreign land.

C.S. Lewis said, "The fact that our heart yearns for something Earth can't supply is proof that Heaven must be our home." For now, though, we are caught between what is sometimes called "the now and the not yet." It's like looking at a beautiful sunset through a dark, thick, wavy piece of glass. We can see the outline of the sunset, and we know it's there, but we can't appreciate the beauty of it as if we were really looking at it. We have the hope of Christ in our lives now, but one day we will live with Him face to face.

***Memory verse: "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."***

***—1 Corinthians 13:12***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. What kinds of questions does the Holy Spirit answer for believers? (1 Corinthians 2:9)
2. Why did God give us the Holy Spirit?  
(1 Corinthians 2:12)
3. 1 Corinthians 13 describes what Heaven will be like.  
What things will disappear in Heaven?  
(1 Corinthians 13:8)
4. Why does the world not fully understand Christians?  
(1 John 3:1)
5. What will God do for us in Heaven? (Revelation 21:4)

## **INTERPRETATION: What does the passage mean?**

1. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul described the wisdom and words given to believers. What do you think Paul meant when he called this wisdom as being not “of this age,” but rather as a “mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began”? Where did this knowledge and language come from?  
(1 Corinthians 2:6-16)

2. What are some things that we know in part now, but that we will understand completely in Heaven?  
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13)



