

As Good As It Gets

*However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived"*

*– the things God has prepared for those who love him
– these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.
The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NIV)

Recently I conducted a wedding for a very fine young couple. We have been friends of the bride's family for many years and have watched her grow up into a most charming, talented, spiritual and beautiful young adult.

The happy couple asked me to speak on humility and love, and also to speak concerning the Gospel. Of course, I was very pleased to do this as part of the ceremony. During the wedding ceremony, when I took a few minutes to develop some thoughts from 1 Corinthians 13, I said to the couple that if they followed the way of the Lord they would grow to be much happier than they were on their wedding day.

I am sure they wondered about how they could

possibly be happier than at that moment when they said, "I do." However, I told them that it was true that when a person walked well with the Lord there was blessing that came as a result. Proverbs 16:7 (NIV), says, "When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them."

So I sought to indicate to them that all the excitement, all of the joy that caused their hearts to burst with happiness on the wedding day was nothing compared to the bliss 10 or 20 years from that time.

Yet there is an even better time ahead of the Christian than the delight of a mature and successful marriage. Even that happy state is not as good as it gets.

Our verses today describe the most blissful, delightful state possible. That is when we are in the visible presence of the One Who loved us and died for us. Only when we are in the place we were created to be shall our joy be full and complete.

I trust that my readers will recognize that the best is yet to come. This world may give us much pleasure and delight and it is good when we have such a life, but in the hearts of Christian people there is a restlessness – a sense that we belong in another world. Only when we enter the place prepared for us shall we find the fullness of joy promised in our verses today.

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