



BIBLE TALK

By

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Question: What is "*that which is perfect*" spoken of in I Cor. 13:10?

Answer: Paul is simply stating that miracles will be done away (vs. 8) as a source of faith for, "*when that which is perfect is come*" (vs. 10), whereas permanent spiritual qualities as faith, hope and love would remain (vs. 13). The time element is important to the meaning of "*that which is perfect.*"

Paul is not referring to the second coming of Christ as "the perfect *thing*." The Greek always uses masculine terms when speaking of Jesus, but the feminine is used here. It is not the perfect state of existence in heaven, but quite the contrary in that gifts "in this world" (vss. 1-8) are discussed. The Greek word "teleios" means "brought to its end, finished, perfect or complete." It is God's will, the "*perfect law of liberty*" (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:25) that is being addressed. Love is not the missing link for some had acquired that. Love was not endowed in supernatural measure (I Cor. 2:1-6; 14:18). Again, this is the wrong gender.

Doctrinal error was etching their faith in His return, for they understood "*in part*" (I Cor. 13:9). The Holy Spirit was to "*guide them into all truth*" (Jn. 16:13), though they "*now see darkly*" (I Cor. 13:12), they could see clearly and "*put away childish things*" (vs. 11). The gifts were done away (I Cor. 13:8), no longer needed (Eph. 4:8-16), walking now by faith not sight (II Cor. 5:7; Rom. 8:24, 25), which is produced by the GOSPEL (Rom 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17) or, "*that which is perfect.*" These would be the guidelines of the covenant spoken of by Jeremiah 650 B.C. (Jer. 31:31-33).

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