The Church Age Believer is Very Unique

I Corinthians 13:9

Before the NT Scriptures were completely written, how and where did God's truth come into existence? This passage begins with an explanatory particle and was used to amplify the manner in which NT Truth was taught before the existence of the NT. We must remember that Biblical concepts related to the Age of Grace (Church Age) was a MYSTERY. It was not known in OT times or by OT writers – and it was first taught by the Lord Jesus Christ who introduced the subject during His earthly ministry.

Matt. 13:11 "And he, the Lord answered and said to them: it has been given to you (the disciples) to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given."

Eph. 1:9 "Having made known to us the mysteries of His will, purpose, design, according to the standard of His good thinking which He purpose in Him" (This is a reference to the Plan of God related to the Royal family). (There was no Royal Family in OT times – The Royal Family began on the day of Pentecost with the Dry Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The explanatory particle in this verse is saying that the Church Age believer is very unique, because Jesus Christ is unique and we have Him indwelling us. The Hypostatic Union by way of the Virgin Conception and Virgin Birth and the total Work of our Lord on the Cross (including death, burial, resurrection and ascension) reveal His finished work and when this occurred a NEW DISPENSATION BEGAN. This is the dispensation of the Royal Family of God.

Deity 2 – had Royalty in His pre-existent state – the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Deity 2 – in His Incarnation had Royalty – Virgin Birth – He was born into the Family of David. That is Royalty by Birth.

Deity 2 – seated at the Father's right hand – had No Royalty – BUT God said: "Not good that our Lord should be alone" therefore He gave to Him a Royal Family made up of all born again believers of the Age of Grace. We, you and I, make up that Royal Family in this dispensation.

Note: The book of Romans was penned around 58 AD. The last book was written by the HS through the Apostle John in 96AD so Paul is saying in Romans 16:25, 26 that God had placed upon him the responsibility to stabilize believers by the message of the "revelation of the mystery, which had been kept secret since the world began."

The Church Age Believer is Very Unique (Continued)

All of this information is in view when God, by the HS, had the Apostle to pen <u>I Corinthians 13:9</u>. "For you see, WE KNOW." (To see and understand). How did Paul have this information around 57, 58 AD? The PAI Verb of knowledge – "we know" – HOW? Paul can produce the action by means of the function of the temporary gift of knowledge. Since there was no NT to study, God provided him with information. Two Reasons:

- 1. Because He is a human writer under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. And two, so that the Body of Christ, Royal Family of God, could learn the truth. (Think: Some people got this truth and died before the canon was completed). They could grow in Grace as we can today! "For you see we know." "in PART" ἐκ μέρος This is a prep. phrase with the abl. of separation which divides partial knowledge of Paul from the total record of the NT when completed. "and we prophesy in part" καὶ ἐκ μέρους προφητεύομεν

Paul is telling us here that he had the gift of prophesy which meant that he was given a gift to communicate truth not yet recorded in canonical form in NT books.

This verb emphasized the temporary gift of prophecy as the means of communicating doctrine. This is saying that: "Knowledge of Truth must precede the proclamation of truth." The gift of knowledge was a necessary pre-requisite for communication of Truth.