

1 Corinthians 1: 4-9; "Resolved, to look for a greater revelation of Christ", A devotional prepared for the New Year's Eve Afternoon service, on December 31st, 2006, by Pastor Paul Rendall

This morning we looked at 3 resolutions which I thought would be appropriate for each of us to consider as we come into this new year of 2007. They were; first, that you and I would resolve to abide in the Bible which is God's very Word to us. That secondly, we would strive to understand more about what it means to be sanctified. And that thirdly, that we would resolve to maintain the unity of the faith with those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to give you a 4th resolution. It is, that we would resolve to look for a greater revelation of Christ. The church at Corinth was a church that had many sinful problems to address in their lives, and in the life of their church. But one of those problems was not anticipating the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. It says in verse 7 that they were eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were resolved to wait; and not only resolved but eagerly waiting His coming. This is something that I believe that we as a church need to consider as we enter upon the new year. So let us consider together these 2 questions and the answers to them and then we will pray.

1st- What does it mean that the Corinthians were eagerly waiting for the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ?

It means that the believers in the church of Corinth were in great anticipation of the day of our Lord's physical bodily return to this earth in great glory. They were anticipating Christ's certain return and all of the revelation of what His coming would mean. They didn't fully understand when it would be or all that it would mean, but they did know that when Christ returned that their salvation would be fully completed. God had called them; they knew this. And their calling was unto a holy life in relationship to our Lord Jesus Christ. But this holy life has a greater revelation of Christ which is most certainly to come. Even as the New Year is certainly coming tomorrow, so the New Day, the Day of Christ, is coming some day, and we should be eagerly anticipating it. Indeed, in one sense His day has already come, for He has overcome sin and death and is Himself ruling and reigning over all things on high. The "darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining." And "the path of the righteous is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day." The perfect Day of His coming will be the day of our meeting our risen Lord, the one who died for us so that we

could have eternal life. What a glorious thing this is to think about. Our Lord is not dead, but alive, and alive forevermore. He is glorified and ascended and seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He ever lives to make intercession for me; but He also lives to come for me and to take me to Himself. In John 14: 2 He says, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you." "And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." This is the time that we eagerly await. It is the Day when we shall see our great and Beloved Savior and be able to admire Him and begin our eternity of relationship with Him. This glory, and He being with us, shall never end. Oh, the things that He shall teach us then, the things that we shall learn from Him and have explained to us. He shall tell us many things about Himself and we shall never tire of hearing of it or learning further some aspect of His life and work for us. We shall speak with the Lord of glory and walk upon streets of gold with Him, and descend to the New Earth with Him someday. We shall be able to ascend into the heavens with Him and fly to worlds unknown with Him. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."(Philippians 3: 20 and 21) No longer will we be like the disciples were when Jesus first ascended, "standing looking into the heavens." We will rise from the dead and "be caught up together with the Lord, and thus we shall ever be with the Lord." Things will be far different from what they are now. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There will be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Just like this year has now passed away and is gone forever, so all the days of sinful sorrow, sighing and crying shall all pass away forever from God's Elect people. Righteousness shall reign in every place and we all shall be, perfectly holy and confirmed in that holiness forever. This is coming and this we shall most certainly find it to be ours in that Day.

Then **2ndly- Are you resolved to live your life in this way?**

Since you know that your Lord Jesus Christ is to be fully revealed some day in all of His glory and power and wisdom, will you not resolve to live to His glory? Will you not eagerly await not only the revelation of Him when He comes again physically and bodily, but will you not also be eager to receive a greater revelation of His glorious grace and presence to your soul in this New Year? Listen to the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1: 13. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He

who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct." If something this great and this glorious, as the revelation of Jesus Christ personally, physically, and visibly is coming, then we ought to live realizing that this world is passing away and all its lusts, but the one who does the will of God shall abide forever. This knowledge of His revelation is so great and so life-transforming that we should meditate upon it often. As the New Year comes in, wherever you are at that time, will you not lift up a prayer to God thanking Him for the revelation of Christ Who is coming and pray also for the grace to live to His glory and not to your former lusts? Will you not pray and say to God, "Lord, this year, make me over into an obedient child." "Let me rest my hope fully upon the grace that You can and will give to me." "Let me have a revelation of Jesus Christ to my soul and my heart in the reading of the Scriptures and in prayer, that will convince me to live the life of a holy man or woman of God." This is the kind of revelation that the Apostle Paul prayed for the Corinthians when he says in verses 6, 7, and 8, "...so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." Let us pray that each of us will be confirmed to the end and blameless in that day. "Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you." "And may the Lord make you to increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." (1 Thessalonians 3: 11-13)