

# Does the Bible Say That?

## I Corinthians 13:10, "when the perfect comes..."

**The Issue:** What is the "perfect" (I Corinthians 13:10)

### Definitions

"Perfect" – *teleion* (#5046)

"Partial" – *merous* (#3313)

"Done away with" – *katargethesetai* (#2673)

### Questions

Some think this verse is referring to the partial being the Mosaic Law, or heaven as the perfect and the world as the partial. Some also think it's referring to the canon of scripture that we have had since the 2nd-3rd century, e.g., "perfect (complete) knowledge." These can't all be true together.

1. What is being done away with? How?
2. Do the items mentioned in v.8-9 have to be done away with at the same time as the "perfect" coming? Does it matter?
3. What is "the perfect"?
4. What is the relation, if any, to the "perfect" being described throughout Hebrews? (10:14, 11:40, 12:23)
5. Does the context of spiritual gifts in v.8 explain what the perfect is? How?
6. Let's consider John 16:13 – "the spirit of truth comes to guide you into all truth." Has this been accomplished in the word we have today?

### Application

How do you use this to help explain the purpose and place of spiritual gifts today?

How does this give us confidence in our Christian lives today?

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.