

# The Meaning of Incomplete and Complete

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13:10

1. Before we exegete this verse let us check the word “partial” in [verse 9](#). “we know in part,” merous (μέρους). OUR KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED – PREACHING LIMITED!
2. “*Partial*” refers to that which is not the full content – only a “part” of the “whole.”
3. When the “whole” is present then the “partial” is no longer necessary.
4. When the “complete” is not present then the “partial” is very important.
5. When Jesus was here on the earth in hypostatic union He introduced the Mystery.
6. This information was not known or proclaimed by the OT prophets. It was a “secret.”
7. It was God’s plan to use the Apostle Paul to make known this “MYSTERY” [EPH. 3:1-12](#).
8. In 54/55 AD Paul penned these words to the Corinthians revealing to them that the completed Canon would come and when that occurred, “partial” would be abolished.
9. The word teleion (τέλειον) is an adj. NOM NEUTER SINGLE meaning *perfect, having attained an end, fully developed*. (In 96 AD the Bible was fully developed) Since this word is in the neuter gender and used as the substantive it cannot refer to a person-but to something that fits the neuter gender. THE WORD OF GOD IS NEITHER MASCULINE NOR FEMININE.
10. NOTE: WHEN *THE INCOMPLETE* WAS THE CONDITION, *THE PARTIAL* WAS NECESSARY, BUT WHEN THE COMPLETE IS THE CONDITION, THE PARTIAL WILL BE UNCESSARY.

TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF INCOMPLETE AND COMPLETE, WE MUST HANDLE GOD’S WORD SLOWLY, DELIBERATELY, AND CAREFULLY. PLEASE JOIN ME IN THE FOLLOWING 10 POINTS:

1. The first particle *de*. δὲ – translated BUT presents a contrast with what is found in the preceding verse. This is saying “you have seen one side of the picture now you will see the other side.
2. When the Incomplete was the condition, the “*Partial*” was necessary, but when the “*Complete*” is the condition, the “*Partial*” will be unnecessary.

## The Meaning of Incomplete and Complete (Continued)

3. The second particle *hotan ὅταν* translated “WHEN” introduces the time when the NT would be reduced to writing and there would be a completed canon.
4. We next have the adjective *teleios τέλειος* (n.n.s. – Nom, Neuter Single) translated *COMPLETED, PERFECT, HAVING ATTAINED THE END, OR FULLY DEVELOPED*. Since it is an adjective used as a substantive and it is the neuter gender, it cannot refer to a person, but to something that fits the neuter gender. **THE WORD IS NOT MASCULINE OR FEMININE.**
5. Next we have the VERB *erchomai ἔρχομαι* which is a AASubj and the Aorist is the Cul. Aor. which views the action as completed – meaning the completion of the Canon, but places emphasis upon existing results – **THAT IS WHAT THE SCRIPTURE (The Mind of Christ) will accomplish in the life of the believer.**
6. Proper translation: **“BUT WHEN THE COMPLETED NEW TESTAMENT HAS COME”**
7. NEXT WE HAVE A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE – **“THE THING IN PART”** ὁ ἐκ μέρους THE – Subj. neuter – thing *merous* is the abl. of separation which is a Greek idiom meaning partial. NOW we have **“But when the completed NT has come, the PARTIAL WILL BE.....ABOLISHED”** – FPI 3<sup>rd</sup> p.s. of *katargeo καταργέω*
8. What is partial? ANSWER: THAT WHICH WAS REFERRED TO BEFORE THE CONTRAST PARTICLE – “BUT” at the beginning of this verse. This is referring to the FUNCTION OF TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS (PROPHECY, APOSTLESHIP, TONGUES, KNOWLEDGE, INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES, ETC).
9. THIS ARTICLE SETTLES THE MATTER OF TONGUES BEING A GIFT NO LONGER OPERATIVE BUT ALSO EMPHASIZES THAT MOMENTUM INSIDE THE SYSTEM OF LOVE IS THE ONLY POWER FOR FULFILLMENT OF THE PLAN OF GOD IN THE POST-CANON PERIOD.
10. GOD’S POWER FOR MANKIND IS IN HIS PLANNED SYSTEM OF LOVE AND NOT IN ANY GIFT – EVEN IN OUR DAY WHEN EACH BELIEVER IS GIVEN AT LEAST ONE SPIRITUAL GIFT. PLEASE NOTE: The cancellation of the temporary spiritual gifts does not phase out the function of God’s GREAT SYSTEM OF PERCEPTION AND APPLICATION OF THE MIND OF CHRIST FOR EACH AND EVERY BELIEVER EACH AND EVERY DAY. TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GONE – BUT THE LOVE SYSTEM REMAINS!