

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 2

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¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

GOD'S WISDOM VS. WORLDLY WISDOM

- What is this "superiority of speech" that Paul says he did not come with?
 - What is the "wisdom" that he did not come with?
- What had Paul determined to know, when he came to Corinth?
 - How much do we need to know or show in the telling of the Gospel?
 - Persuasive speech?
 - Strength?
 - Courage?
 - Can we still persuade men to accept Christ without "demonstration of the Spirit and of power"?
 - How?
 - What is the power of God unto salvation?
 - What is the danger if someone obeys the Gospel on the power of another person's charisma, popularity, boldness, or fame?

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

⁹ but just as it is written,

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,

AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,

ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

- To whom does the Gospel sound wise?
 - What kind of maturity are we talking about
 - How can I know if I have such a maturity?
 - To whom has it not sounded wise?
- What does Paul mean, when he says that he speaks “God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom?”
 - What does he mean when he says “God **predestined** this mystery before the ages to our glory”?
- God’s wisdom is unattainable by (v. 9) who?
 - What would they have done if these rulers of this age had understood?
 - Why do worldly men **not** understand these things?
 - What does “things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him” tell us about Deut. 29:29?

¹⁰ For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually

- God's wisdom is attainable only through (v. 10) what?
 - How has God revealed what we do know?
 - How much does the Spirit know?
- How much does the spirit of a man know of the man himself?
 - What is Paul's point with this illustration? (v. 11)
- What is Paul claiming in v. 12 to have that makes him worth listening to?
 - What does he claim not to have?
 - Does this mean that we will know everything?
- What does Paul mean when he says that his teaching given by the Spirit combines spiritual thoughts with spiritual words? (v. 13)
- What can a "natural" man not "get"? (v.14)
 - Why?
 - Why are the things of the Spirit foolishness to the natural man?
 - What kind of mind does the "natural man" have?

appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

- What does it mean to appraise in this context?
- What does Paul mean that a spiritual man appraises / judges / examines all things?
 - What does he mean that the spiritual man will not himself be appraised / judged / examined?
- What point is Paul making with this OT quote from Isa. 40:13?
 - Can anyone be smarter than God?
 - Do people sometimes think they are? Examples?
 - What does Paul mean that “we have the mind of Christ”?
- What are the larger lessons from this chapter to live out in daily life?