

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

God's Wisdom Revealed By The Holy Spirit

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Outline

1 Cor 2:5 ...so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

- God acts in His own wisdom (1:21).
- Paul transferred wisdom from a philosophical, rhetorical term into a historical and soteriological one (1:24, 30).

1 Cor 2:6-16

1. Verses 6-10a God's wisdom for elect vs. those who are blind.
2. Verses 10b-13 The H.S. let us in on the "mystery."
3. Verses 14-16 The natural vs. spiritual man.

Paul Spoke Wisdom From God

1 Cor 2:6-8 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, but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 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...

mature/spiritual as opposed to "infants" (3:1)

καταργεω- present tense "in the process of being abolished" (1 Cor 1:28)

Αποκρυπτω-perfect - God hid it in the past and it remains hidden to the rulers of this age! (Matt 13:11)

God's Truth Always "Unseen" By This Age

1 Cor 2:9-10 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.**" For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Isaiah 64:4, 65:17 – Paul uses Isaiah to prove that God's plan of redemption is not perceptible to the unregenerate. (cf. Isaiah 6:8-10)

For = (δε) – better rendered "but" – adversative – contrasts verse 9 with verse 10. (The unregenerate can't perceive, but the Spirit enables the elect to perceive.)

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• Gk. ἀπεκάλυψεν, the verb that became the technical one for the "divine revelation of certain supernatural secrets" (cf. Psalm 98:2; Daniel 2:22) (Fee, NICNT).

Only God understands God = Romans 8:26-27 "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us...and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

We Can Know God Only By The Spirit

• Paul proceeds to use a Greek philosophic principle that "like is known only by like."

1 Cor 2:11 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.

"This is precisely the linkage he needs in his argument with the Corinthians. By their own experience of the Spirit of God, they consider themselves to be "spiritual." Apparently they have thought of spirituality mostly in terms of ecstasy and experience, which has led some of them to deny the physical body, on the one hand, and to a sense of "having arrived..."

What Paul is about to do is to present the Spirit as the key to the proper understanding of the gospel itself, especially of his preaching" (Fee, NICNT).

God Gave Us Knowledge of The Gospel

1 Cor 2:12 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.

- Now (δε) – is resumptive – it follows from verse 11
- “So that we may know...” brings us back to vs. 9 “All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”
- What things? 1 Cor 1:23-24 ...we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- Χαριζομαι - Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Paul Has Defended His Preaching

1 Cor 2:13 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*.

- Paul has now given a full apologetic to those at Corinth who were boasting in their own spiritual status, while implying Paul was merely carnal:
- 1 Cor 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

God Revealed His Truth In Words

1 Cor 2:13 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*.

KJV ...combining spiritual things with spiritual.”

- People have reasoned: “This means interpreting Scripture in light of Scripture.”

NIV margin note: ... combining spiritual truths to spiritual men.

*The things we also speak” relate to the gospel alluded to back in verse 12.

The Natural Man Is Spiritually Blind

1 Cor 2:14 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 appraised.

- ου δυναται γνωσι - complete inability!

Romans 3:11 There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.

Only The Regenerate Seek And Find

1 Cor 2:15-16 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

Ανακρινω - **ἀνακρίνω**^d; **διακρίνω**^a: to make a judgment on the basis of careful and detailed information—to judge carefully, to evaluate carefully. Louw, Johannes P. ; Nida.

Mind of Christ – indicates that naos (mind) and (pneuma) spirit are interchangeable.

Summary

Many people in our day think of themselves as spiritual, yet are blind to the truth of the gospel. Paul's words to the Corinthians are a powerful reminder of the depravity and inability of mankind to seek and respond to the true, living God. The reality and significance of Christ and His atoning work will forever be the only wisdom that can save men. This wisdom, Paul has proven, comes only as a gift from God.
