

The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

Chapter 2

Vs. 1-2

- Paul didn't use excellent speech
 - Remember, he was well educated, intellectual, and philosophical (Acts 22:3) but after his conversion he chose not to rely upon intellect but Jesus
- Paul decided to preach about Jesus and not himself
 - Note: Paul "determined": he had a choice in it
 - ➔ **YOU CAN'T GET SO DEEP THAT YOU DON'T REACH THE PEOPLE!!**
- The Corinthians were looking for more charisma in preaching and had begun listening to others preach with more flare
 - It was the simple Gospel Message that turned pagans into saints. But, flesh-led preaching stray saints.
 - Contrasts spiritual ministry and soulish ministry
 - Soulsh – amuses, entertains, or generally appeals to man's emotions
 - Spiritual – presents truth of God's Word to glorify Christ and reach the heart and conscience
 - Mere charisma can never replace knowledge of the Word of God – Rom. 10:3
- Vs. 2: The content of Paul's message: Jesus Christ (the Person) and Him crucified (the work)

Paul's Demeanor (Vs. 3-4)

- Was with them in weakness: 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Cor. 12:10; 2 Cor. 10:10
- With them in fear and in much trembling:
 - Not afraid of people or even death (Phil. 1:21) but in awe of the accountability he had to God for sharing His Word. This is the proper perspective of a true servant of God.
- Did not depend upon "enticing" words of man's wisdom
 - Many are lured into error by the enticing words of men – 2 Pet. 1:16
- Paul came in demonstration of the Spirit and of power
 - Corinthians full of spirituality and gifts but Paul shows them how the gifts work

Where Does Your Faith Stand?

- Paul's purpose was to establish their faith in God and not man's wisdom
- Examples of faith in God vs. man's wisdom:
 - Tithing – Mal. 3:10
 - Submitting – Eph. 5:21-22; Col. 3:18; James 4:7
 - Pastoral leadership – Jer. 3:15; Jer. 23:4, Eph. 4:11; Heb. 13:17

Godly Wisdom (vs. 6-7)

- Vs. 6: "them that are perfect" - Godly wisdom requires spiritual maturity (teleios) to appreciate 1 Cor. 14:20; Phil. 3:15; Heb. 6:1
 - Paul doesn't speak wisdom from the world or the rulers of the world because it like them perishes
- Vs. 7: "in a mystery" – New Testament truth not previously revealed but now made known – Rom. 16:25-26
 - God had already ordained salvation through Jesus and knows those who will be saved – Rom. 8:28-32

The Enemy Didn't Know

- Vs. 8: none of the "princes"
 - Could refer both to demonic spirits (Dan. 10:13; Eph. 2:2) and the human rulers of the time (Luke 23:34)
 - ➔ **WHAT THE ENEMY MEANT FOR YOUR BAD, GOD MEANT FOR YOUR GOOD! Rom. 8:28**

The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

Chapter 2 (Continued)

The Failure of Man's Wisdom (vs. 8-10)

- They didn't realize they were rejecting the Son of God even though they were men of great authority
Mat. 27:19-20
- They crucified the Lord of Glory – Psa 29:1

A Misquoted Excuse of Man's Wisdom (Vs. 9-10)

- Recognize that there is a distinction between the natural and spiritual but many misuse verse 9 to justify their ignorance
- Is a paraphrase of Isa 64:4
- Vs. 9 notes 3 faculties used for which are used to learn earthly wisdom but aren't enough for spiritual wisdom
 - Eye, ear, heart (mind)
- BUT VERSE 10 RESOLVES THE TENSION OF VERSE 9 – God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit
 - The source of spiritual revelation is the Holy Spirit
 - Has revealed unto “us”. Who is “us”? 1 Cor. 1:2
John 14:26; John 16:13-14

Three Key Doctrines of this Passage

- (1) Doctrine of revelation – Vs. 10
Eph. 1:17
- (2) Doctrine of illumination – Vs. 11
 - Trying to understand the Word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit is futile
Eph. 5:14; John 14:26; John 16:13-14
- (3) Doctrine of inspiration – Vs. 12-13
 - Deals with speaking words led of the Spirit instead of led by man
2 Tim. 3:16; Luke 12:11-12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jer. 36:2

The Natural Man vs. The Spirit

- The unsaved man can not comprehend the things of the spirit
- It is a waste of your time to try to get the unsaved to appreciate the things of the Spirit
- This is one of the key reasons that God called for spiritual men and women to lead His Body
Acts 6
- Some examples of natural man trying to understand spiritual matters
 - Nicodemus – John 3:4
 - Peter's rebuke of Jesus – Mat. 16:21-23
- YOU CAN'T FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES WITH NATURAL WEAPONS!
2 Cor. 10:3-6
- The spiritual (those dominated by the Spirit) judgeth (discerneth) all things but are not judged by no man
Gal. 5:16; Mat. 24:24; Heb. 5:14 (not babes)
- We have the mind of Christ
 - “we” – true believers
Phil. 2:5