

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Intro: For the past five months I have been reading the Book of Proverbs each month--and what a blessing it has been! Each time I go through it I see things that I had not seen before, and I see relationships between verses in Proverbs to each other, as well as to other passages in other books of the Bible.

As you know, in Proverbs and in Ecclesiastes, Solomon was particularly concerned about acquiring knowledge and wisdom and understanding.

In fact, Solomon made an especially important statement in Prov. 4:7. Listen to it:

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:  
and with all thy getting get understanding.

Both of those OT books, however, show us that there are two kinds of wisdom, and Paul did the same in the opening chapters of 1 Corinthians: There is the wisdom of men,  
and there is the wisdom of God.

The two are very real, and yet they are very distinct.

In our chapter for this evening, one is called "the wisdom of this world" (1 Cor. 2:6); the other, "the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 2:7).

The wisdom of man is of this world. It is humanistic. It is blind to spiritual realities, and it fails to take into consideration man's helplessness and hopelessness apart from the help and blessing of God.

Whether it be the wisdom of man or the wisdom of God, both have to do with the way we are to live. And that, in turn, comes out of our understanding of how we got here, what we are supposed to be doing, and what our destiny is.

In some cases there is a mixture of human wisdom and divine wisdom, but the two will not mix. One has man at the center; the other has God at the center.

Now it was this mixture that had come to be such a problem in the Corinthian church. And that is why Paul had been led by the Holy Spirit to write this Epistle.

The key verse in these opening chapters of 1 Corinthians is the 30th verse of chapter 1. Let me rearrange the words to bring out the meaning of the verse:

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who is made unto us

wisdom from God, which is, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

The NIV renders it this way:

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

A Christian's understanding of life is entirely different from that of the world. In fact, the world looks upon what a Christian believes as "foolishness." But Paul retorted by saying that if it is, God's foolishness is far wiser than the greatest of man's wisdom.

But let us look at the problem a little more closely.

## I. THE NATURAL CONDITION OF THE HUMAN HEART.

Two verses bring it out.

A. 1 Cor. 2:9.

B. 1 Cor. 2:14.

## II. THE UNIQUE CONDITION OF THE CHRISTIAN.

Cf. 1 Cor. 2:12.

Two questions:

- 1) What are the things which are freely given to us of God?
- 2) Where do we learn about them?

Those things which are given to us of God have to do with Christ. They are "righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30). And these are ours because of the death of Christ. They have to do with becoming right with God, living right in the sight of God, and ultimately becoming like God. This is "the wisdom of God" stated as briefly as it can be stated. In them we see our need, God's provision for that need, and our ultimate destiny.

But where do we learn about them?

They have been "revealed" to us by the Spirit, and that revelation is the Bible, the Word of God. And it is this revelation which gives us "the wisdom of God."

A. The Christian--indwelt by the Spirit. Cf. v. 12; John 14:16, 17. Also Rom. 8:9b.

B. The Christian--to be taught by the Spirit.

In addition to 1 Cor. 2:12, cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-15.

Cf. also 1 Cor. 2:10-13, 15, 16.

He is the One Who teaches us "the wisdom of God," hidden for a time, and yet a wisdom "which God ordained before the world unto our glory" (1 Cor. 2:7). And the heart of that wisdom is the truth concerning the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16b). This is the meaning of Christ's death. This explains His purpose in coming. It would have been impossible for us to live as we should if Christ had not come and died, and it would have been impossible for us to know what it is apart from the Holy Spirit as our Teacher.

Concl: Thus, Paul felt his dependence upon the Holy Spirit in his teaching and preaching. The wisdom of God is summed up in Christ, and the power of God to achieve it is in Christ also--and only in Him.

For all of us there needs to be a firm faith in the willingness of the Holy Spirit to minister to us. We need to trust Him to teach us. No man can possibly teach us the things of God unless he is being used by the Holy Spirit.

How foolish it is to talk about God having no feet but our feet, no hands but our hands, no mouth but our mouths. He may use us, or He may not. If the Lord is dependent upon us, the purposes of God are in jeopardy--without a doubt!

Let this year hold for all of us hitherto unexperienced blessings as we look to the Spirit of God to teach us the meaning of what He caused men to write in order that we might know "the wisdom of God."

We live in a world governed by human wisdom, and it is only as we stay by the Word of God day by day that we can be kept from departing from "the wisdom of God," and living according to "the wisdom of men."