

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
November 17, 2021
Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*
The Corinthian Letters
The Long Letter (First Corinthians)
Text – 1 Corinthians 2 – *Hidden Wisdom*

Key Verse

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Introduction

In chapter two, Paul will explain the secret weapon that Christians have access to that the lost world is completely clueless about. The Spirit of God.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," (Ephesians 1:13)

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)

People get save because the Spirit of God reveals the truth of the Word of God to them regarding the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He opens the eyes of the blind so that they can see the truth. Lost people cannot see the Truth. It is foolishness to them, because the Holy Spirit has not opened up their eyes. Be careful when trying to persuade men that you do not employ the wisdom of the world, but you rely solely upon the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

I. Powerful Preaching (vs. 1- 5)

A. Not with excellency of speech or of wisdom. (v. 1)

B. He stayed focused on the Gospel (v. 2)

C. He was nervous (v. 3)

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (1 Corinthians 1:28)

For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. (2 Corinthians 10:10)

D. His preaching was forceful (v. 4)

1. ...not with enticing words of man's wisdom...
2. ...in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

E. Faith came as a response to the power of God (v. 5)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Note – Read Acts 17:14 – 18:5 – Paul learned from his experience at Athens to not rely on good arguments, and eloquent words in the communication of the truth. Remember, it is always the Spirit of God and the Word of God that will reach people.

II. Withheld Wisdom (vs. 6 – 10)

A . This wisdom is not for the lost man, but to the perfect

Perfect means complete or mature; can be used to refer to the saved in general, or more narrowly defined as referring to spiritually mature (for them that love Him {v. 9}).

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (Philippians 3:15)

B. This wisdom is not from man but from God (vs. 6 – 10)

The same idea was expressed while the Lord was on earth when he used parables.

And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (Luke 8:10)

III. Divine Direction (vs. 11 – 16)

A. Man without the Spirit of God cannot know the things of God.

B. The saved man can know the things of God through the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit will direct in proportion to growth and obedience.
2. The Holy Spirit will never direct apart from the Word of God. He wrote the Bible and He gives us the ability to understand what God wants us to understand. He gives us what we need for the things that we will face today; and he gives us what we need to help others.
3. The Holy Spirit will not give knowledge for the sake of knowledge alone.

Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. (1 Corinthians 8:1)

C. It is only through the Spirit of God and the Word of God that we have the mind of God (Christ). (v. 16)