

*“We May Know the Things Freely Given Us By God”*

*1 Cor 2:6-16*

*Celebrating the Centrality of Christ in the Local Assembly*

The revelation from God is what we hold in common, is to bind us together, and is to be celebrated as a gift from Him.

The contrast in our present paragraph is between knowing and not knowing, between those who are spiritual and those who are natural, and between a wisdom that is of this age and a wisdom that is secret and hidden. It becomes immediately evident that God’s will is for His people to know Him and He has secured this end by means of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who enables and enlightens His people in order that they might know the things freely given to them by God.

This paragraph has many fascinating elements. The passage emphasizes the ministry of the Holy Spirit in opening up the ability of His people to understand what God is saying.

There are three questions around which the paragraph is built:

First, what is the wisdom spoken of?

Second, who can receive this wisdom?

Third, how is this wisdom revealed?

I. What is the wisdom revealed (vv. 6a, 7, 9)?

A. It is a wisdom not of this age (v. 6b)

B. It is a wisdom not of the rulers of this age (v. 6c)

C. It is a wisdom from God in a mystery (v. 7)

D. It is a wisdom God predestined before the ages to our glory (v. 7b)

E. It is a wisdom that reveals what God has prepared for those who love Him (v. 9c)

F. It is a wisdom that reveals the depths of God (v. 10b)

Are you catching the language used in verses 9 and 10? Whatever else this might be, it is something so marvelous as to escape our human comprehension.

There is awaiting us something that passes our ability to process.

II. To whom is this wisdom revealed?

A. Who cannot receive this revelation?

*Continued on the other side...*

1. Those who are of this age (vv. 6, 8)
2. Those who have the spirit of this age (v. 12)
3. The natural man (v. 14)

B. Who can receive and know this revelation?

1. Mature (v. 6)
2. Those who love Him (v. 9)
3. Spiritual (v. 15)
4. [Those who] have the mind of Christ (v. 16)

III. How is it imparted from God to this group?

No one who lived prior to Christ could fathom the depth and degree to which God would go to secure the salvation of His people. No one apart from Christ today can imagine the extent of God's grace in the sending of His only begotten Son for the salvation of a people who are in a position of hatred and outright rebellion against Him (vv. 14-16). And yet, this action on God's part is wise. It does not reflect the "Wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age" (v. 6).

It is only as the Holy Spirit opens our understanding that we come to see who the Son of God is and why He came that we embrace this gracious act for ourselves.

With this said, we now return to this passage in 1 Cor 2:6-16. As the natural man is exposed to the Word of God our text tells us that it is the Holy Spirit who opens up their understanding so that they might believe what is being stated. Without this operation of the Holy Spirit, the hearer can understand the passage grammatically, but they will not understand the significance of the passage for themselves.

As we share our faith and proclaim the sufficiency and satisfaction of Jesus Christ to a world buried in spiritual death, let us ask God to open their eyes. As we come together around the text of Scripture let us call out to Him who is the revealer of truth to open our eyes so that we might see those things that "God has prepared for those who love Him."

When our understanding has been opened and we see the significance of God's wise action at Calvary, it is then we will say with the apostle Paul, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."