

The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Synopsis

Written by the Apostle Paul
To the Church at Corinth, near Athens.

Chapter 1: They were equal to any other church in spiritual gifts
Division was apparent among them
In His great wisdom, God chose ordinary people

Chapter 2: Even Paul came to them in weakness and fear rather than with confidence in himself
God's wisdom is different than the world's wisdom
It is communicated through the Spirit to Inspired men
Others with the Spirit accept this message

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| <p>Paul came:</p> <p>Without eloquence Without superior wisdom</p> <p>Without self-confidence</p> <p>Without wise or persuasive words</p> <p>The miracles pointed listeners to God and faith.</p> <p>His message had a different kind of wisdom</p> | <p>1 Corinthians 2</p> <p>1. When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.</p> <p>2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.</p> <p>3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.</p> <p>4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,</p> <p>5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.</p> <p>6. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.</p> | <p>☪</p> <p>“Jesus Christ” includes His teachings, not limited to the crucifixion. ☪</p> <p>☪</p> <p>2 Corinthians 12:12.</p> <p>We who are the speakers: the Apostles.</p> |
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| <p>God's wisdom is secret and ancient.</p> <p>The crucifixion proves that God's wisdom was not understood.</p> <p>God's wisdom is prepared for those who love Him.</p> <p>His wisdom is revealed by His Spirit.</p> <p>The Spirit knows, is God.</p> | <p>7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.</p> <p>8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.</p> <p>9 However, as it is written: "NO EYE HAS SEEN, NO EAR HAS HEARD, NO MIND HAS CONCEIVED WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM" —</p> <p>10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.</p> <p>11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.</p> | <p>Isaiah 64:6</p> <p>God has revealed to Paul. The Apostle's message is truly from heaven.</p> |
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| <p>Paul has that Spirit.</p> <p>So he has the Spirit's message.</p> <p>The natural man rejects the message.</p> <p>The spiritual man receives it.</p> | <p>12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.</p> <p>13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.</p> <p>14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.</p> <p>15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:</p> <p>16 "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ.</p> | <p>There are actually two spirits.</p> <p>Paul claims to speak for God.</p> <p>We need to adjust to a Biblical vocabulary. We should think the thoughts of God after Him.</p> <p>Isaiah 40:13 LXX.</p> |
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2:1 In promulgating your exoteric cogitations and articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable philosophical and psychological observations, beware my friend, of platitudinous ponderosity or plenteous profundity.

2:2 Preacher Clarence Jordan was getting a red-carpet tour of another minister's church. With pride the minister pointed to the rich, imported pews and luxurious decorations.

As they stepped outside, darkness was falling, and a spotlight shone on a huge cross atop the steeple.

"That cross alone cost us ten thousand dollars," the minister said with a satisfied smile.

"You got cheated," said Jordan. "Times were when Christians could get them for free."

Applications:

- 1 Preaching Christ DOES include the death of Christ. Psychology has been substituted.
- 2 The message includes the inner and outer life. Children to Seniors.
Work relations Family issues. Congregational issues. Moral issues.
3. Limiting the verse to the crucifixion is taking it out of context.

2:3 Once someone came upon Michelangelo chipping away with his chisel at a huge shapeless piece of rock. He asked the sculptor what he was doing. "I am releasing the angel imprisoned in this marble," he answered. Jesus is the one who sees and can release the hidden sainthood in every man.
-- William Barclay's