

2/26/12

1Corinthians 2

Paul continues his discourse on the wisdom of God through the proclamation of the gospel to save man which was considered unintelligent and just down right foolish to the wisdom of man.

1. Paul exposed the futility of the wisdom of the world to know God. 1Cor. 1:18-25

2. The bottom line is that the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1Cor. 1:25

2:1-5 The preaching of Paul at Corinth.

2:1 The preaching was uncompromised.

- 1) Paul addressed them as brethren “adelphos” for the fifth time, there will be 32 more, they were family.
- 2) Paul did not come with the proficiency or confidence of rhetoric, excellence of speech to declare the gospel.
 - a) The word excellence “huperochē” means rising above, superior or pre-eminence.
 - b) Impressive speech to affect the hearer by mastery language, commanding authority.
- 3) Paul did not come preaching with man’s wisdom.

- a) The word “sophia” referred to the product of comprehension and understanding of knowledge for decisions, often used for philosophy.
 - b) The word is used five times in chapter one for human wisdom and three for God’s wisdom. 1Cor. 1:17, 19, 20, 21 (2x’s), 22, 24, 30
 - c) Seven times in chapter two, five for human wisdom or philosophy and two times for God’s wisdom. 1Cor. 2:1, 4, 5, 6 (2x’s), 7, 13
- 4) Paul preached the gospel of God.
* The word testimony “marturion” means a witness, synonymous with the gospel.

2:2 The committed of Paul to preach a Christ-centered gospel.

- 1) The God-Man, who was the Messiah.
- 2) The God-Man who was crucified for the sins of the world.
* In order to not make the gospel ineffective. 1Cor. 1:17

2:3 The condition of Paul when he came to Corinth.

- 1) In weakness “astheneia”, physically perhaps due to his thorn in the flesh. 2Cor. 12:7-10; Gal. 4:13-15

- 2) In mental fear “phobos” terror from within.
- a) Probably due to the evil of the city.
 - b) Paul was alone when he arrived at Corinth, Silas and Timothy were still in Macedonia.
 - * “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.” 2Cor. 3:5
- 3) In emotional trembling “tremos”, quaking on the outside.
- a) Some think that Paul was depressed due to the fact that his success was small at Athens but he goes on to tell the Corinthians that God gives the increase not man, so I reject that presupposition.
 - b) Others think Paul attempted to use man’s wisdom at Athens and failed for that purpose and at Corinth he is correcting it, but again there is no internal evidence for such a statement.
 - c) But Jesus appeared to Paul to confirm His word and protection. Acts 16-17, 18:9
 - * We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 2Cor. 4:7

- 2:4-5** The preaching of Paul was by the power of the Holy Spirit and efficient.
- 1) The method of the world is with persuasive words or of man’s wisdom, which never gets to the heart of the problem sin nature and sin. vs. 4a
 - a) The word persuasive “peithos” means words that have their aim to convince, rather than simply inform, so they could make a choice.
 - b) This is the only appearance, it is believed Paul coined the word.
 - 2) The demonstration was of the Spirit’s power, to change the lives of the debauched Corinthians. vs. 4b
 - a) The former lives of sin. 1Cor. 6:9-11
 - b) The word for power is “dunamis”, residing power in a thing by virtue of its nature. Acts 1:8
 - 3) The purpose was that their faith would be a product of the power of God, through the wisdom of God, not man’s wisdom. vs. 5
 - a) To the Romans he said the gospel was the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, the Jew first and also for the Greek. Rom. 1:16
 - b) To the Thessalonians he said that the gospel came unto you not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance. 1Thess. 1:5

2:6-16 The preaching was spiritual wisdom revealed by the Holy Spirit.

2:6-9 The wisdom spoken by Paul was heavenly and eternal.

- 1) The understanding is only to believers. vs. 6
 - a) He identifies himself and the others, Silas and Timothy “we”, as mature spiritually, not perfect. Phil. 3:8-15
* It has been said that maturity is a process not a plateau!
 - b) He points out the contrast of the wisdom of this age, the fallen world order and rulers that are ever changing, but temporal.
 - 1)) The men who were in the positions of authority and influence, who set the standard of truth and wisdom by their institutions of higher learning.
 - 2)) They die off every generation, till Jesus sets up His Kingdom.
 - 3)) The source of the fallen world is Satan. 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:12
- 2) The origin of the wisdom of God. vs. 7
 - a) Ordained before the ages for our glory. Acts 2:23
 - b) A mystery “musterion” meaning something once hidden but now

revealed and was used by the secret religions for initiatory rites regarding secret knowledge.

- c) The secret was that Jew and Gentile were going to be one in Christ. Gen. 12:3c; Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:4-9; Col. 1:26-27
* Do not buy in to “Replacement Theology”, that God is through with Israel and the church is spiritual Israel.
- 3) The evidence of the natural man to understand the gospel apart from the wisdom of God. vs. 8
 - a) The rulers of the days of Jesus crucified him because He made Himself out to be God, being a man. Jn. 10:32-33
 - b) The evidence of their ability to know would of been to except Him.
 - 1)) “I know brethren, that you did it ignorance as *did* also your rulers.” Acts 3:17
 - 2)) “The time of ignorance God winked at, but now commanded all men every where to repent.” Acts 17:30
- 4) The apostle uses this verse in a two-fold manner. vs. 9
 - a) The quote is from the prophet Isaiah. Is. 64:4, 65:17

- * This verse is a transitional verse looking back and forwards as verse seventeen of chapter one.
- b) To verify the fulfillment of the inability of the natural man to know God or the things of God.
- c) To reveal that the things that God has prepared for those who love Him are so far from their imagination or expectation.
 - * This verse usually is misquoted for future things, instead those things for our present life in Christ!
- d) These three senses can't be used to know God or His mind, yet they will be open through the Spirit to see, hear and understand the things of God.
 - * The heart refers to the thoughts, intellect, will and emotion.

2:10 The application of the promise and fulfillment is made to himself and the others who preach Christ, having embraced the wisdom of God to be illuminated by the Spirit of God.

- 1) The word "but" in a contrasting conjunction, those in the previous verse can not know God through their physical senses, but due to the spirit's work in their life, the Spirit is able to reveal the things of God and know them.

- a) God hid the gospel from the wise and prudent and revealed it to babes. Matt. 11:25
- b) General revelation makes you accountable that there is a God.
 - 1) Creation. Rom. 1:20
 - 2) Conscience, guilt. Rom. 1:19; 2:14-15
 - 3) History
- c) Special revelation makes you where you will spend eternity.
 - 1) Theophanies, Christophanies.
 - 2) Miracles.
 - 3) Prophecy.
 - 4) The word.
- 2) The Holy Spirit being God knows and searches all things and the deep things of God, but not to be informed but to reveal!

2:11-12 The illustration for the principle of spiritual illumination.

- 1) He illustrates his point from the lesser to the greater, man's knowledge of man and make the parallel to the Spirit of God. vs. 11
- 2) He applies it to himself and the other apostles for illumination. vs. 12
 - a) The spirit is called the Spirit of God.
 - b) The Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ.
 - c) The Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.

2:13 The revelation was the words of the Spirit.

- 1) Inspiration is implied to guarantee the accuracy of the recorded truth. Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- 2) The Holy Spirit is the One teaching comparing spiritual thing with spiritual.
 - a) The verifying of Old Testament truth by the New Testament revelation.
 - b) The Spirit interprets by comparing scripture with Scripture, this is to be our practice for searching out truth!

2:14-16 The revelation of God is spiritually discerned.

- 1) The natural man is void of this potential to accept the things of the Spirit of God. vs. 14
 - a) This is the unregenerate person who thinks the gospel foolish. 1Cor. 1:18
* He is dead in trespasses and sin. Eph. 2:1-2
 - b) This is only possible by the ability of the Holy Spirit, to scrutinize, examine and investigate, which the word discerned “anakrino” means.
- 2) The spiritual is able to make judgments. vs. 15
 - a) He judges or examines all things of God to know if they are of God. Acts 17:11

- b) He can not be judged right by the unbeliever about the gospel for they are unable to do so, being spiritually dead.
- 3) The impossibility of anyone instructing God. vs. 16
 - a) Who has know the mind of God and concluded that he needed to instruct God? “Is. 40:13”
 - 1)) Not the unbeliever.
 - 2)) Not the believer.
 - b) But the believer can know and receive the things of God, due to the fact that he has the mind of Christ, as well as the Spirit of Christ.
 - 1)) Put on the mind of Christ! Phil. 2:5
 - 2)) Be renewed in the spirit of your mind! Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10