



TEACH ME  
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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EPISODE

3

Chapter 2

1 CORINTHIANS

*Divisions in the Church*



## Episode 3

# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 2

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If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:  
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

*The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)*

*Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)*

*Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)*

*Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)*

### REVIEW

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul begins by reminding the Corinthians that he is the source of their understanding of the gospel. Moreover, he did not reveal this gospel to them in “superiority of word” or in the “wisdom of men,” but through the demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Paul then spends the rest of the chapter explaining this point. Remember to pay special attention to the pronouns that Paul is using. His point is that the revelation of God has come to the apostles and prophets through the ministry of the Spirit. If the Corinthians wish to be “spiritual” then they must listen to this revelation, paying no attention to “superiority of word” or the “wisdom of men.” In so doing, they will be able to judge (i.e., “appraise” or “examine”) correctly. This is an important point to Paul’s message to the Corinthians because they are judging Paul (an action that is causing divisions among them), yet not judging themselves correctly! Doesn’t that sound familiar...judging Paul, but not judging oneself correctly?



## Episode 3

# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 2

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### DAY 1

#### Read 1 Corinthians 2

**Listen to this week's Podcast (30 min) and read along as David reads 1 Corinthians 2 and unpacks what Paul is saying to the Corinthian church.**

- What is the Corinthians' fundamental misunderstanding (00:01:22)?
- What does Christian spirituality look like (00:08:34)?
- Why should we listen to Paul (00:13:00-00:13:32)?
- How is Christ the power and wisdom of God (00:14:17- 00:14:44)?
- What is Apostolic succession and why is it important (00:21:07-00:21:56)?
- How should we go about studying the Bible (00:22:03- 00:26:50)?

### DAY 2

#### Read Isaiah 64-65

God revealed these things to Isaiah (a prophet of the nation Israel).

1. How does Paul's allusion to Isaiah 64-65 help him make his point to the Corinthians?

God has added to that revelation, through the ministry of the Spirit, to the apostle Paul.

2. Why is it important that the Corinthians (and also us today) recognize that God has revealed Himself through the ministry of the Spirit to the apostles and prophets?



## Episode 3

# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 2

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### DAY 3

In 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul states that “a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.” The word for “appraised” is the same word for “examined” in the Greek (although it may be variously translated). This Greek word is used in 1 Cor. 2:14, 15 (2x); 4:3 (2x), 4; 9:3; 10:25, 27; and 14:24.

**Read these verses in their context.**

1. What is the point that Paul is making?
2. How does this line of argumentation help address the divisions in the church at Corinth?
3. Do they have any application for us today?

### DAY 4

You have been (at least I hope so) paying special attention to Paul’s use of pronouns in his letter to the Corinthians (this is a practice that will help you understand all of the Scriptures).

1. What is Paul’s point in 1 Corinthians 2:16 when he says, “...But we have the mind of Christ?” (Remember, the chapter designations were added over 1000 years later. So, “chapter 3” continues Paul’s argument).

### DAY 5

#### Application and a Look Forward

- Read 1 Corinthians Chapter 3.

Can you logically follow Paul’s argument from 2:16 through 4:1(and following)?

Give it a shot and see if it makes sense.