

We have the Mind of Christ Outline

1st Corinthians 2:6-16

- I. The depth of natural man.
 - A. The pursuit of being in the “inside”.
 - 1. C.S. Lewis—“The Inner Ring”.
 - B. The Corinthian church was obsessed with “The Inner Ring”.
- II. Wisdom.
 - A. Man’s wisdom—Not all bad, just temporary.
 - B. God’s wisdom—Eternal truth.
- III. How important is God’s truth for us?
 - A. 2 Thessalonians 2—the man of lawlessness
 - 1. People perish for not “loving the truth” (verse 10).
 - B. 1 John 2:18—the Holy Spirit resides in the believer, reveals the truth.
 - C. Origination of truth:
 - 1. Truth is OUTSIDE of you.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit resides INSIDE the believer.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit brings the truth INTO the believer.
- IV. God’s wisdom is not humanly discoverable.
 - A. The “mystery” of God is impossible to know unless God reveals it.
 - B. Examples:
 - 1. Jesus and Nicodemus—John 3
 - 2. Philip and the Ethiopian—Acts 8
 - C. Limitations of science (2:9).
- V. **Revelation**—what God reveals (2:10-11).

- A. Through the Holy Spirit, God reveals His depth.
- VI. **Inspiration**—How God reveals it (2:12-13).
 - A. God reveals His revelation through the Holy Spirit to His select men—the apostles.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a. “God breathed” = *theo-pnueustos* = “God and His Spirit”.
- VII. **Illumination**—How is God’s word revealed to the believer?
 - A. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the believer to God’s Word.
 - 1. Unfortunately—natural man refuses the Word of God as “foolish”.
 - 2. The natural response to God’s word is that it is “foolish” (1:18).
 - B. Believers have “the mind of Christ” (2:16).

The Mind of Christ

5 Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

We have the Mind of Christ Pastoral Notes

1st Corinthians 2:6-16

The verses we come to this morning... (2:6) begins with the word “**Yet**”... which is a conjunction attached to what was said before it which was the sermon of last week... which began at verse 1 of chapter 2 with the word “**And**”

Which is a *coordinating conjunction* which attaches it to the verses before that... hence the sermon of three weeks ago (1:18... which began with the word “**For**” which in this case is also a conjunction attaching it to what came before it... and what came before it was way back in chapter 1 verse 10 which is the word “**Now**”...

Now is a “*discourse marker*” which transitions the previous passage... (1:1)... Which began with the word **Paul**... the very first word in this letter... all that to say “*I think all this is connected*”!

Mankind has always been driven to find inside knowledge... to find the secret to life that no one else has found... it began in the garden with Adam and Eve... they were restricted access to one thing out of everything!... *you can have infinite access to everything*... but this little tree over here...

The serpent knew the inside longing of man to have the inside knowledge... the secret to life... the secret that only God Himself knows... so he tempts them to crave the only thing they were not to crave... so they could be on the “inside”

The depth of natural man is the pursuit of being on the inside.

Years ago C.S. Lewis spoke about this temptation found in all men... Lewis said “*One of the deepest human desires is to be on the inside... the desire to be in the know... to know something that other people do not know...*”... He called this “**the inner ring**”.

He then warned this about the “inner ring”... “*unless you take measures to prevent it, this desire is going to be one of the chief motives of your life...*”

The Corinthian church existed in the center of a culture that was obsessed with whatever was “new”... current... special... insider knowledge about everything under the sun... always searching for the newest thing... elevating the philosophy of man... the inner ring... another way to approach the futilities and mundaneness of life.

What was going on in Corinth and the Corinthian church is really an example and warning for us... there are so many similarities between the culture of that day and the culture of our day... similarities between what was influencing the Corinthian Christians and us today.

Just as the Corinthians actions and attitude were not congruent with the nature of God's wisdom... we need to be careful... honest with ourselves and continually evaluate and examine ourselves to see if we too are out of step with God's wisdom in any way...

We need to make sure we are not pushing out God's truth and wisdom for that which is worldly, popular... easier... trendy and new...innovative...THE INNER RING.... The world is always presenting to us something that is "new"... "improved"... some new revealed "secret" that if we hop on we will not miss out on life...

Everything new.... But nothing is really new

Up until now... the apostle Paul has not been very positive about the current wisdom of that day... hence... I've been pretty negative as well... in that there are so many correlations between the culture and church in 1st century Corinth to our situation in our day... I have followed Paul's lead in dissing the wisdom of man.

He has been telling us that the wisdom of man...is far inferior to the wisdom of God... the wisdom of man may be appealing...pragmatic... even entertaining but its lifespan is brief...how brief?... at the end of one's earthly life the reality of man's wisdom ceases to exist.

God's wisdom is foolish to those who are perishing but for those who are being eternally saved, **it is the power of God.**

Paul doesn't leave the subject alone... so I shall not as well... but now may be a good time to acknowledge that man's wisdom... the world's wisdom.... The wisdom of natural man... all of those terms meaning the same thing....

Man's wisdom is not necessarily false wisdom... or always bad wisdom... or wisdom to always be avoided... no... I think we can now acknowledge that much man's wisdom is necessary for practical living... there is much we can glean studying the wisdom of man...

Looking back through my life... some of the most influential people... people that taught me much... were not Christians... what they taught me was practical wisdom that helped me through life.

There are just some things the Bible does not address that is necessary for living in this culture in these times.... The Bible says nothing about when, how and why you should change the oil in your car...

Not that the Bible doesn't mention oil... it's just that the it will tell you to anoint your forehead or feet with oil... that may not be what you are looking for!

The wisdom of man has many, many helpful insights into operating in this world that the Bible is silent on... so all of man's wisdom is not bad... not wicked.... That never was the point... the point has been and will continue this morning to be... that man's wisdom has a very defined limited lifespan... has a date of termination... man's wisdom cannot continue past the grave.

Which makes it far inferior... temporal... actually rather insignificant... in the big scheme of things compared to God's eternal wisdom....characteristic in Paul's style and method of writing is the use of repetition...

For two chapters now... the apostle has been talking about God's wisdom and man's wisdom... how God's wisdom is not just superior to man's wisdom... but is absolutely essential in living a Christian life that leads to eternity in heaven....

Each week we've looked at this from a slightly different angle as we will one more final time this morning...

As I've said previously... Paul is laying up the foundation to set the rest of this letter on... before he addresses individual sins and weaknesses within the Corinthians church that are holding the church back from the immense blessings of God... he presents the basis of the Christian life before he gets to the specific problems within the church.

This morning we are going to see some crucial truths regarding the essentialness of God's wisdom... not just a preference of God's wisdom over man's wisdom... but its essentialness in our Christian lives... we are going to see the vital role God's word in our lives.... and the crucial role of the Holy Spirit....**God's wisdom is revealed in God's Word.... And God's Word is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit**... so let's read it together:

Read 1st Corinthians 2:6-16

Can we deep dive for a while this morning?...**How important is God's truth for us?**... I was reading 2nd Thessalonians this week...it's been a tough week for our country and the world... lies are winning... I won't go into details... but 2nd Thessalonians was a good read for this week.

A verse struck me in chapter 2...chapter 2 tells us something about the end times... talks about the coming man of lawlessness...which happens right before Jesus returns...

Paul tells us that the "**mystery of lawlessness is already at work**"...that's obvious right?...lawlessness is one of the big issues today is it not?.... but **he**...the man of lawlessness will come... his workings **will be in accord with the working of Satan...with all power and signs and false wonders**... it's verse ten that caught my attention:

And with all the deception of unrighteousness for those who perish (remember 1:18?... *the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing*)... why will they be deceived?... why will they perish?... (10) **BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH SO AS TO BE SAVED.**

(1:18)...**But to us who are being saved...it is the power of God...** there is an inseparable link between the power of God and His truth...His wisdom.... People are perishing because they do not have the power of God (the only power that saves)... that is received ONLY through His truth!.... tha is why God's wisdom is essential!

Let me show you another place...different writer... (*I hope we get to our passage this morning!*)... John writes about the end times as well... 1John 2... he's talking about **in the last hour**... the last days...(2:18)... **Children it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now antichrists have appeared, from this we know it is the last hour...** John is warning them about what is happening and where it is all going... then he says (20) **But you** (all those is Jesus Christ) **have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know** (what do they, the anointed, the saved know?... God's truth).

(27) **And as for you, the anointing whom you received from Him abides in you** (what is the anointing from God that abides in you?... it is the Holy Spirit) **and as for you, the anointing whom you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you..**[referring to the world's wisdom... no need for any of that] **But as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and not a lie, and just as He has taught you, abide in Him.**

When you become a believer in Jesus Christ... the Holy Spirit resides in you... and what does He do inside of you?... He brings alive to you the truth of all things... the things that truly matter... and how does the Holy Spirit reveal that truth to you?... **through God's word**... God's wisdom.

What marks Christianity as different from just about all other religions is that the truth does not originate IN you...the truth is outside of you (this book)... Many religions say that truth is inside of you and all you have to do is move out of the way and it will come to the surface... this is the lie of today.... That's what drives the human potential movement.

“You got everything you need inside of you...the “inside ring” is inside of you!

The truth resides OUTSIDE of you... the Holy Spirit resides INSIDE of you... it is the Spirit that gives you the ability to see and grasp the truth that is outside of you...and bring it inside of you.... To reside in you.....back up to verse 24.

As for you, let that which you heard from the beginning which was outside of you...God's wisdom...God's truth **abide in you, if what you heard from the beginning abides in you.... You also will abide in the Son and in the Father.**

1st Corinthians will clarify... what I want us to see and hopefully grasp is that *the power of God comes through the wisdom of God... and the wisdom of God is made available in God's word—the Bible... and God's word is understood ONLY through the Holy Spirit that resides inside of you.*

1. This wisdom is NOT humanly discoverable...

Read verse 6

The mature here are the saved... those who have been made complete (mature) in Christ... mature here is the idea of complete and perfect.... That of course is only possible through Christ.

So Paul is talking about... again... the difference between wisdom of the world and wisdom of God... here he tells us that the wisdom of God is not understood by men... echoing what he said in chapter 1...

Read verse 7-8a

The best and the brightest men on earth couldn't understand God's wisdom... Wisdom that came down to earth from heaven... extra-terrestrial wisdom!... they couldn't understand it... they still can't today....

If they DID understand it... they would have known who Jesus was... and why He came to earth... and **(8b) THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED HIM!**... the Jews didn't understand it and still don't.... the non-Jew... gentiles didn't and still don't understand it... it is all a **mystery** to them.

A mystery in the sense of something that is not known... truth hidden... until it is revealed.... So this **mystery of God's wisdom is impossible to know unless God reveals it**... it is not humanly discoverable.

This is what Paul was saying in Ephesians 3... speaking about his assignment from God to deliver this great mystery to the gentiles... listen to this...

(7) "...I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.[notice everything was given to Him by God...] 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches of Christ**, [unfathomable = cannot figure out... cannot be traced out... understood] 9 and to enlighten all people as to what the plan of the mystery is which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 so that the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church [believers].

Man cannot discover the mystery of God's wisdom.... **God must reveal it to them.**

I want to plant two stories in our minds that I think will help us...two familiar stories... we find the first one in the gospel of John 3... Jesus meets with the pharisee Nicodemus...

Read John 3:1-2

Nicodemus is intrigued by this man, teacher, rabbi Jesus Christ... there's something special about Him because He can do many amazing things...so amazing Jesus MUST be connected somehow to God...Nicodemus doesn't ask a question to Jesus... but Jesus answers one anyway.

Nicodemus is apparently inquiring about who Jesus is and His relationship with God... and I think implied... Jesus's relationship to "God's Kingdom"... is He claiming to be the Messiah?.....being a Pharisee he would have wanted to know this...

Now remember... Nicodemus is a high end Jew... a Pharisee... He knew his Bible...but knowing what's in God's Word... the words is not what's important... what I want us to see is in Jesus's reply:

Read verse 3

In other words...*you cannot... not just "don't understand, won't understand" but CANNOT understand who I am...* the spiritual truth... the reality of the coming Kingdom of God...can't understand any of it unless you are born again... unless you "*believe in Me*"

Note that later Jesus quotes scripture that hasn't been written yet to Nicodemus...(John 3:16).... Not only had that not been written yet... it hadn't happened yet!

You may know the words of the Bible but you can't know what they mean until you are born again!

And Jesus takes it a step further when He tells Nicodemus ... not just you can't SEE the kingdom of God... (5) **Truly, truly I say to you unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** You can't see it you can't enter it... To be born again literally means "*born from above*"...God causes one to be born from above... born again... by definition... born again is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the believer...

Salvation and the Christian life all depends on having your eyes opened to God's truth by the Holy Spirit...the truth is here... it's outside... one more familiar story... Acts 8... the story of Philip and the Ethiopian...

Philip, one of the original "deacons"... known as "Philip the Evangelist" has a divine meeting with the Ethiopian Eunuch on the road back to Ethiopia...the Ethiopian Eunuch was sitting in his chariot

Acts 8:30-31

30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

How could he!?... you can throw a bible to someone and say read it... but unless the Holy Spirit opens their eyes... *“How can I know what I’m reading?... this is out of this world...literally!”*

Philip... being used as an instrument by God... gets up on the chariot and together they read and discuss a passage from the book of Isaiah... The Ethiopian’s eyes are opening... he asks Philip insightful questions... Philip answers.... Then it says:

(35) then Philip opened his mouth and beginning from the Scripture he proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him...he shared with him the foolishness of the cross....

36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

Acts 8:36 Late mss add as v 37: **And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”**

So...the man doesn’t get it... can’t get it... he reads God’s word and can’t see it... God opens His eyes through the instrument of Philip... the man believes that Jesus is the Son of God.... and gets baptized.

Back to 1st Corinthians 2:9 loosely taken from Isaiah 64:4

Read verse 9

That’s science!.... the limitations of empirical science which depends on what can be observed with the senses..... the eyes, ears... God’s wisdom far surpasses those limitations...which brings us to verse ten which is where we get our main message this morning.... Verses 10 and following...

ARE YOU TRACKING WITH ME?... DO WE NEED TO STOP AND DO SOME CALISTHENICS?...we’ve done that before!

What we see here are three aspects of how God’s wisdom is revealed to us... this is so important for us to know and realize... not just for our own understanding.... But this helps us to understand those around us who haven’t accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

1. What God reveals as His wisdom...2. How He reveals it.... and ...3. How one gets it... to use theological terms 1. God’s revelation, 2. God’s Inspiration and 3. God’s Illumination.

1. Revelation—What God reveals—what is the content of His truth that He reveals?...

Revelation.

Read verses 10 and 11

God uses the Holy Spirit to reveal to us “**the depths of God**”...we’ve already been told by Paul that we can’t know God unless God reveals Himself to us... this verse tells us that that’s what the Holy Spirit does... He reveals God to us.

The idea is this... no one can know what’s truly inside a person unless that person reveals it to them... You might think you know what someone is thinking... but unless they let you in on it... you really don’t know... you only have a guess.

Even people we think we really know... we know so well we think we know how and what they are thinking... But we really don’t know... No one but a man’s own “spirit” can know what goes through his mind...

Judging on the outside... one can really get it all wrong... so like man... the only one who knows God truly is God’s Spirit...God Himself... here in the Trinity... the Holy Spirit... Paul says “**the Spirit searches all things even the depths of God...**”

The Spirit of God is the one that knows the deep realities, purposes, plans of God and knows perfectly the wisdom of God.... so the Spirit knows God... He is the Spirit of God... then reveals God to us.... that is called *revelation*...apocalypses... meaning to unveil something that has been hidden.

So each one of us the....hopefully... has in your hands the revelation of the Spirit of God...and that book discloses all the secrets of the great mystery of God that is hidden to the unregenerate man.... **God has made known what until He did so was unknown to all men....** that’s revelation.

2. Inspiration—How He reveals it... Inspiration...

Read verses 12-13

First of all we need to understand who is receiving what... “**Now WE have received....**” who is the “we”?... is the we you and me?... No!... if it is “we” that would mean “we” could still be receiving..... and I don’t believe the Holy Spirit is still revealing the word of God... in other words... the word of God is complete....

It begins in Genesis and ends with Revelation.... And it is complete... so the “we” here are the apostles.... *We, the apostles received from the Holy Spirit the depths of God’s wisdom....*so inspiration is taking the revelation that has been revealed by God and putting it all down in words.

In the upper room before the night of Jesus's death on the cross... Jesus tells His **disciples in John 14: 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you...**

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things... God's wisdom... and He's going to remind you of everything you've forgotten... Why?... so you can write it all down!... just a couple chapters later Jesus says to them in chapter 16

13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you.

You see... the Holy Spirit who knows the depths of God... is going to disclose these truths to the apostles why?... so they can write it all down for us.... that is called inspiration.... A passage from 2nd Timothy 3:16 I often quote... but it excels here in meaning:

16 All Scripture is inspired by God [I like **God breathed] and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work**

God breathed...*theo-pnuestrós*...which literally connects God and His Spirit... His Spirit being His breath...another classic verse...2 Peter 1:21

21 for no prophecy [teaching of God's will...to teach it you had to know it] was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Those men are the "we's" in 1st Corinthians 2:12...."**Now we have received...**"

So God revealed Himself through the Holy Spirit who knows the depths of God... the Holy Spirit delivered the revelation to chosen men by God to write down the exact words God revealed to them... and then that leads to the final aspect.... How do we get it...

3. Illumination.... How is God revealed revelation illuminated to the believer?

The Holy Spirit is the key here as well as the other two aspects... Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit to make known the revelation of the written word to us and make it understandable....to enable us to understand what is in these pages.... That's illumination.

SO we have God's revelation... we have His Word... the Holy Spirit makes it understandable ... the problem is... not everyone is going to understand it....why?

Read verse 14

We need to understand this...we are so quick to throw Bibles to unbelievers...and we should make sure everyone has a Bible...and the Holy Spirit reveals the word...but... perhaps we should become instruments of God much like Philip was to the Ethiopian... help explain what is in these pages...

Maybe give a little guidance... like... don't start in Leviticus.... Or Judges... maybe the gospel of John... and Lord willing... the Holy Spirit will open their eyes...unfortunately... many will look at these beautifully bound Bibles as foolishness....and they will reject it.

That is the “natural” response to God’s revelation!.... they naturally can’t grasp it!.... that’s what Paul means when he says they are “**spiritually discerned**” or “**spiritually examined**” (14)... they do not have access to God’s wisdom!

So they can’t appraise the Word of God accurately.... They certainly can’t appraise the people of the Word of God accurately.... They can’t!...to them God’s people are foolish...

We must share the gospel... if you have it you must share it... Salvation comes to those who hear and believe the facts of the gospel...Romans 10:14

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

Verse 17 reminds us that **faith comes from hearing...hearing the word of Christ... the gospel... the foolishness of the cross...**

I love how Paul ends 1st Corinthians 2..... **For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He will direct him? BUT WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.**

Just sit and contemplate what that means.... The mind of Christ is unfathomable... all the wisdom of God... we share in that by being allowed to have the mind of Christ... Paul is quoting Isaiah 40:13 (very loosely!).

Paul quotes it again in Romans 11... I love the context there... **Oh the depths of the riches and wisdom of the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways..... for who has known the mind of the Lord?**

We do!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever... AMEN