

1 Corinthians 2.6-16

"We are Not Total Idiots!"

Last Sunday 1 my FAVORITE People Preached 1 my FAVORITE Passages...

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2.1-5

As I listened to White Haired preacher – Remembered him as YOUNG MAN
 45 yrs ago Ron, Cousin John, Me, Others preaching Youth Meetings in LA area
 Way back then DETERMINED to Know Nothing but Jesus Christ CRUCIFIED
 God will JUDGE whether we have Managed to do THAT

CONTEXT of Great Verses – Apostle Paul's PLEA to Spiritual Kids in Corinth
 GROW to be MORE like CHRIST and LESS like their CULTURE
 Corinth > Great IMPORTANCE Orators, Rhetoric, Logic, Philosophy, Wisdom

Paul THROWS HAND GRENADES into Corinthian WORLD of WISDOM
 Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men...God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong

1 Corinthians 1.24-27

45 yrs ago Me & My HOMIES beginning FORMAL Studies for Ministry
 Facing 4 years for Bachelor's Degree / 3 years for Master's Degree / at least...!
 One DAY One of Us found VERSE Set us FREE from Yrs Academic AGONY!
 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4.13

Made SENSE w/ ALL Paul Clearly Spoken up to THIS POINT in 1 Corinthians

BEING with Jesus – NOT Ancient History, Calculus, Geography, & Literature

We were READY to March to Dean's OFFICE and DROP Out of UNI

Stop wasting Time with WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, & FOOLISHNESS of Man

But then we READ the NEXT Verses of 1 Corinthians Chapter 2...

Paul is Not Against Wisdom in Itself > Against “SO CALLED” Wisdom

Human Wisdom PROUDLY Stands in Arrogant Opposition to JESUS & CROSS

See 2 more Truths from Apostle Paul...

1. Wisdom that surpasses the World’s

a. Restores Unity

Please STOP Looking at your PHONES for Minute – PUT on THINKING CAPS

STEPPING into VERY Misunderstood Paragraph of the BIBLE

Very HELPFUL words Assembly of God scholar > Years of Study in 1 Corinth

This paragraph has endured the most unfortunate history of application in the church. Paul's own point has been almost totally lost in favor of an interpretation nearly 180 degrees the opposite of his intent. Almost every form of spiritual elitism, “deeper life” movement, and “second blessing” doctrine has appealed to this text. To receive the Spirit according to their special expression paves the way for people to know “deeper truths” about God. One special brand of this elitism surfaces among some who have pushed the possibilities of “faith” to the extreme, and regularly make a “special revelation” from the Spirit their final court of appeal. Other “lesser” brothers and sisters are simply living below their full privileges in Christ...Paul's concern needs to be resurrected throughout the church. The gift of the Spirit does not lead to special status among believers; rather, it leads to special status vis-à-vis the world. Gordon Fee

ELITIST Teaching – Some Xtians have Deeper Life – Greater Blessing – MORE

Completely IGNORES all that Paul has Said Up to this Point – AND Right Here

Letter to Whole Family of Faith in Corinth >> “WE” & “US” thruout Verses

vs. 9,10 "...what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

v. 12 we have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

v. 16 we have the mind of Christ. > NOT just you GUYS with your PhD's!!

To 'have the mind of Christ' does not mean we are infallible and start playing God in the lives of other people...it means to look at life from the Savior's point of view, having His values and desires in mind. It means to think God's thoughts and not think as the world thinks.

Warren Wiersbe

Paul SENT this Letter to WHOLE Church

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours

1 Corinthians 1.2

SMALL 'c' church gathered CORINTH part of BIG 'C' Church Around World

Paul VERY DIRECT and OPEN about his HOPE for Church in CORINTH

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1.10

Paul's RIDICULES their FACTIONS into Groups Named for MERE MEN

ONLY ONE DIVISION in the Eyes of God >> Receive Jesus or Reject Him

Follow the Truth or Forsake It > PRAISE the LORD or be PROUD of Yourself

vs. 14-15 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

Either you are NATURAL PERSON or a SPIRITUAL Person

NATURAL – Merely HUMAN – Never been BORN of the SPIRIT

Today SPIRITUAL –Very WIDE Definition – Any FLUTTERY FEELING
 Believe Fairy Pixies, Religious Leaders, or Meditate smoking Marijuana

Paul would call our Popular Idea of Spirituality v. 12 the spirit of the world
 Paul NARROW Meaning > just One Person and One Thing > Jesus & Cross
 ONLY Person who RECEIVES Savior RECEIVES His SPIRIT
 EVERY Person who RECEIVES Savior RECEIVES His SPIRIT

SPIRIT enables Person to DISCERN – Only used by Paul in 1 Cor – 10 X's
 Paul uses MANY of POPULAR Words spoken then on STREETS of CORINTH
 But he REDEFINES them DIVINE VIEWPOINT of SACRED SCRIPTURES
 Without Jesus & Spirit INCAPABLE of UNDERSTANDING Spiritual THINGS

All human verdicts are no more than preliminary, God who gives the final verdict. Anyone whose equipment is only of this world, who has not received the Holy Spirit, has no ability to make an estimate of things spiritual. The unspiritual are out of court as religious critics; they are like deaf men judging music. G.G. Findlay

Do you HEAR the Music? Chinese Opera? Rock? Classical? Not Hear?
 Me Neither! But if had RADIO RECEIVER – Hear all that and MORE!
 Holy Spirit IN US allows us to RECEIVE Clear Signal of God's WORD

Person who has WISDOM from God – Eager to Maintain Unity of Church

b. Remains for Eternity

v. 6 not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

WISDOM of the AGE is often EXPOUNDED by the RULERS of this AGE
 Need to get IDEAS from CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA & Facebook get VOTES

We VOTE for this GREAT PERSON and their WONDERFUL PROMISES
 Whether Left, Right, or Center > THEY & IDEAS DOOMED to Pass Away
 I've HEARD 60 yrs of POLITICAL PROMISES – All have EXPIRATION Date

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
 against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
 heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a
 rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the
 LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and
 you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take
 refuge in him.

Psalm 2

3000 yrs Ago DECREE was GIVEN – Only 1 Kingdom will ENDURE
 Only ONE PROMISE will Not be FOILED by Bullets, Ballots, or Bureaucracy

Nothing MORE SINFUL or STUPID than Xtian thinks Politician Change Nation
 SINFUL because we make IDOLS out of MERE MEN and WOMEN
 STUPID cause they're DOOMED > KISS the Son lest he be ANGRY with You

Those who marry the spirit of the age are very soon widowed. David Jackman
 Gilded boys and girls all must, like chimney-sweepers, come to dust. Shakespeare

v. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Do you think PHARAOH would have Oppressed the ISRAELITES if he...

KNEW their GOD would DROWN him in the RED SEA?

Do you think PILATE and CAIAPHAS would have BRUTALIZED Jesus if KNEW their FINAL DAY he would Stand Before HIM as their Eternal JUDGE

HORRIBLE, SHOCKING, TERRIFYING Day of RECKONING for all Rulers Who STOOD AGAINST God & Church – By CRUELTY or COMPLACENCY

RULERS of this Age have FADING Glory – Lord Jesus is FOREVER Glorious

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40.6-8

c. Reveals Glory

PALM Sunday was Brief Glimpse of Jesus KINGLY Glory

You might Think I FORGOT it is PALM SUNDAY!?

Son of David coming into David's City > Palm Branches, Honor, and Praises

But they CROWNED Him with Thorns and ENTHRONED Him on a TREE

Misunderstanding of Palm Sunday – Much like Corinth – Much like TODAY

v. 8 crucified the Lord of glory.

Lord of GLORY – Many Scholars think this HIGHEST Title Paul gives to Jesus Paul consistently Teaches Jesus is FULLY God and Nothing Less than GOD

STATEMENT filled with IRONY and PATHOS > Tried to KILL Lord of Glory
 Like TRYING to EXTINGUISH the SUN with a FIRE HOSE
 Rulers FULFILLED God's Plan CRUCIFYING Man who'd CONDEMN Them

v. 9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

NOT Sure Scripture Paul is Quoting > Apostolic Interpretation & Application
 PLACE God has PREPARED is Not AFTERTHOUGHT > ETERNAL Home

Jesus: "the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" Matthew 25.34

The TREASURES of the Eternal God will never be Found by Man ALONE
 GOD has PREPARED them and He must PRESENT Them to His PEOPLE

vs. 6,7 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom...a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

OF COURSE We are to KNOW WORD better than the WORLD knows IT
 But ALSO We are to KNOW WORLD better than the WORLD knows ITSELF
 Contrary: Bible Believing Christians portrayed Media "*We're Not Total Idiots!*"

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9.10

Our WISDOM Should SURPASS the WORLD > We Know MAKER of World
 Our God MADE Heaven and Earth > Invites us to Understand and Explain It
 Our God SPEAKS > Invites us to SPEAK TRULY and BEAUTIFULLY
 Our God is ETERNAL > HISTORY is HIS STORY – Sovereignty, Providence

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. Psalm 119.99

Jesus is the UNI in the UNIVERSITY

Founders of 1st Uni Believed 1 Clear Truth stand on to Study All of Life

Not all ‘Born Again Evangelicals’ > Bible: Word of God & Jesus: Son of God

From ‘Unity’ of truth in God > Studied ‘Diverse’ world, i.e. “University”

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” Colossians 1.17

Sampling of MOTTOES from Universities from around the WORLD

Not sure what – If Any – Influence Great Ideals have on those Campuses Today

But CHOICE of such Mottos Testifies to GOD-FEARING FOUNDERS

“You can go to your college, you can go to your school, but if you don’t have Jesus – you are an educated fool!” Barry McGuire

One Day BEST of the Universities – Nations – Villages – Hearts – Homes

Will be GIVEN back to GIVER of every Gift in CITY of our Gracious GOD

2. Wisdom that saves the World

a. Revelation by the Spirit through the Scriptures

v. 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

In Romans, Paul asks question...

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

Romans 11.34

Here Paul answers his Question...

v. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

LIKE IS KNOWN BY LIKE – Only you Know what You are THINKING
 Looking very INTERESTED and ATTENTIVE to SERMON...But... Lunch??
 Don't Worry – I am thinking about LUNCH Too! – Always thinking of Lunch!
 GOD knows what GOD is Thinking About – SPIRIT of God his INTERPRETER

Communion w/ God thru WORDS, SPEAKING God, We Speak: In His IMAGE
 God SPOKE Creation into Existence – God's Son is called THE WORD
 God's Spirit INSPIRED Men to write INERRANT, INFALLIBLE WORDS

“explaining the things of the Spirit by means of words taught by the Spirit...in language appropriate to the message, not with human wisdom” C. Holladay

God made his mind known by revelation through the Spirit directly to the apostles and indirectly through them to their readers then and now. We enter into the ‘mind of Christ’ as we read carefully the text of these apostolic letters and apply their teachings to our lives. Paul Barnett

v. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

TONE of IRONY as Paul writes to Corinthians who loved Secrets & Mysteries
 Greatest Mystery is NOW an OPEN SECRET > Eternal Plan of God
 Gospel once HIDDEN has Now been REVEALED in Jesus Christ

Jesus: “Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”^{Matthew 13.16,17}

...the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3.3-6

How does the Spirit teach the believer? He compares “spiritual things with spiritual.” He reminds us of what He has taught us, relates that truth to something new, and then leads us into new truth and new applications of old truth. What a joy it is to sit before the pages of the Bible and let the Spirit of God reveal its truth.

Warren Wiersbe

Person with SPIRIT of GOD is TRULY WISE – has REAL DISCERNMENT

b. Redemption by the Son through His Sacrifice

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1.18

Paul NOT Interested playing in Childish SANDBOX of Human WISDOM

FOCUS > Greatest EVENT in Human History > Most Impt event UNIVERSE

It is most important to note that the ‘mystery’ of which Paul speaks here is not something additional to the saving message of Christ crucified: it is in Christ crucified that the wisdom of God is embodied...We never move from the cross – only into a more profound understanding of the cross.

David Prior

Nothing is MORE WISE or SPIRITUAL than JESUS and His CROSS

The rulers of this age and their wisdom are all in the process of passing away because the life, death, and resurrection of Christ have transformed the time line.

Ben Witherington III

So...be COOL...STAY in School...!

You have MORE WISDOM than all your TEACHERS if you have CHRIST MATURE Man or Woman is SPIRIT-FILLED and SCRIPTURE TAUGHT

See that All the Promises of GOD are Now YES and AMEN in Jesus

God brought you CITY where MOST People think this Just Another Week
No Idea that this Week Commemorates MOST Important Week in History

Their ETERNAL DESTINY was Determined by What Happened this Week
Jesus rode DONKEY into Jerusalem to DIE for His Church

1972 Easter Week – Student High School – I heard this GREAT NEWS 1st Time
YMCA Camp on Catalina Island off coast of Los Angeles
HEARD Gospel and Committed my Life to Follow Jesus

Tell Someone this Week! Invite them to Good Friday, Easter AM or PM
God brought You and Me here for a KINGDOM Purpose to Make Him Known

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3.20,21

1 Corinthians 2. ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Nation	University	Motto
Argentina	National University of Córdoba	Carry My Name to the people
Australia	University of Notre Dame Australia	In the beginning was the Word.
Canada	Crandall University	Christ is Preeminent
	McMaster University	All things cohere in Christ
	University of Ottawa	God is the Master of Science
Chile	Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso	Faith and work
Germany	University of Freiburg	The truth will make you free
India	St. Stephen's College, Delhi	To the Glory of God
Japan	Rikkyo University	For God and Country
S. Korea	Yonsei University	Truth will set you free
	Hanyang University	Love in Truth and in Deed
Lebanon	American University of Beirut	That they may have life and have it more abundantly

Mexico	Universidad Iberoamericana National Autonomous University	The truth will set us free For my people the Spirit will speak
The Netherlands	Groningen University	The word of the Lord is a light for our feet
Paraguay	Catholic University of Asunción	In the Beginning was the Word - He Has Begotten Us by the Word of Truth
Perú	Pontifical Catholic University	And the Light Shone in the Dark
Philippines	Silliman University Xavier University	The Way, The Truth, The Life The Truth Shall Set You Free
Poland	University of Łódź	Truth and Liberty
South Africa	University of Fort Hare University of the Free State	"In Thy light we see light" "In God is the Light of Wisdom"
Spain	Universidad de Valladolid	Wisdom hath built herself a house
Sweden	University of Uplapsa	Truth through God's mercy and nature
United Kingdom	University of Aberdeen King's College London University of Glasgow University of Oxford	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom With holiness and with wisdom The Way, the Truth, and the Life The Lord is my Light
United States	Brown University Columbia University Harvard University Yale University	In God we hope In Thy light shall we see light Truth Light and truth
Venezuela	Universidad de Los Andes	The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom