

I CORINTHIANS
Chapter 2:10-16

INTRODUCTION:

The revealer of divine wisdom is the Holy Ghost. He alone is competent to make this revelation, because He only knows the secret purpose of God, VS 10-12.

In preaching or communicating the knowledge gotten from the Spirit, the apostle used words taught by the Spirit, V: 13

Though the knowledge preached was divine, and although preached in appropriate language, it was not received by the natural man, because the things of the Spirit can be discerned or understood only by the spiritual, VS: 14-16.

VERSE 10:

“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

The Old Testament speaks of times when there were great and wonderful mysteries, which were kept hidden from all men. Even the prophets themselves, as enlightened as they were, knew nothing of the special truths of this dispensation, but God has made the great and wonderful truths known now.

The Old Testament gives us the preparation time. There we have God's people as children going to school, learning through symbols, types and shadows, but with no realization of the wonderful truths now made known, and therefore Isaiah could say, Isaiah 64:4. All of that has changed today. Our eyes do see, our ears do hear, and our hearts should be able to comprehend the wonderful things, which God hath prepared for those who have been born again through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, “God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.”

We have already studied the things of God in this book, and we have learned that the things of God are not known by the wisdom and knowledge of men. The revelation of God comes to us through the study of His Word and by the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We can know the fuller and deeper things of God if we will seek them in prayer and study of the Scriptures.

VERSE 11:

This verse is designed to illustrate two points. First, as no one knows the thoughts of a man but the man himself, so no one knows the thoughts of God, but God himself. No one but a person who has been saved and has the Spirit of God dwelling within is able to know the thoughts and purpose of God. Second, as every man does know his own thoughts, so the Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God. The point to be shown here is the knowledge of the Spirit. He knows the mind of God, as we know what is in ourselves.

VERSE 12:

Since it is not within man to know the things of God, he must rely upon the Spirit to reveal them unto him. The more we study the Bible and pray, the more we can understand about God. We must first be born again and receive the Holy Spirit, as He is only given to

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them that are regenerated, and then we can begin to learn about the things of God. The natural man cannot know the things of God regardless of his outward conduct, knowledge, or ability; he is completely shut off from the spiritual things. The most he can understand about the Bible is the literal words as they are written in the grammatical sense.

Remember, believers have received the Holy Spirit, as He has come to indwell and control us. This is for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, in order that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. That is the secret of learning the Bible and understanding the truth. We come to the Bible, study it in dependence on the Holy Spirit who dwells within to open the truth and enable us to understand.

Let us look at a very important point. The Holy Spirit will not grant understanding if He is being grieved. As long as the Spirit is pleased within you because you are living in a godly, unworldly, consistent life style, it is His joy to take the things of Christ and open them up to you. The moment you grieve Him, and give yourself to unholy thoughts or worldly behavior, and yield to carnality and things contrary to the Lord Jesus Christ, you grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

Instead of the Holy Spirit being free to do what He delights to do and take of the things of Christ to show them unto you, He has to occupy you with your own failure, sins and shortcomings in order to bring you to repentance and confession where you will seek to put everything right before God. Therefore, the secret of learning the mind of God, as you study His Word, is to live in the power of an un-grieved Spirit and study the Word of God with dependence on Him to open your mind to understand that which is studied.

VERSE 13:

Paul claimed to speak the very things that the Spirit had revealed. As expressed by the prophets and apostles, speaking and writings, were synonymous, Acts 1:16; 28:25. Paul made two claims for his speaking; one negative and one positive. Words are conveyors of thought. The apostle stressed that the words used in his speaking and writing were not taught by human wisdom, but by the Holy Spirit. This is strong support for the verbal inspiration of the apostolic writings. The Holy Spirit revealed truths and taught the words which would correctly express those truths. Paul wrote what the Spirit taught. As children of God we should likewise teach what the Spirit has taught us through the written Word.

The emphasis, however, is clear. The Spirit of God must control revelation, inspiration, illumination, and instruction, apart from Him, the wisdom of God can not be known.

The Spiritual man gets food from the words that are written in the Bible and they mean much to him. His faith is in Christ, who is the central theme of the Bible and he desires to know more about his Saviour. The Holy Spirit causes the saved person to hunger for the truths of God just like the natural body hungers for the physical food.

VERSE 14:

“The things of the Spirit”. The truths of His Word are clearly revealed and although they have been spoken in language, taught by the Spirit through a chosen group of men, they are rejected. God’s Word is not believed, appreciated, or obeyed. This class of men is called, “natural”.

By the natural man we mean the un-renewed man, the man under the influence of human nature, as distinguished from those who are under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The natural or un-renewed man does not receive the things of the Spirit.

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“For he cannot know them”. The natural or un-renewed man cannot discern the truth, excellence, or beauty of divine things. He cannot do it. It is not simply that he does not do it, or that he will not do it, but he cannot do it.

“Because they are spiritually discerned”. Because they are discerned through the Spirit, therefore, those who have not the Spirit cannot discern them. The inward state of the un-regenerated must be changed by the influence of the Spirit before he can comprehend the truth and beauty of the gospel. If the “gospel be hid”, said the apostle, it is hid to them that are lost. The only hope of the un-renewed, therefore, is in doing as the blind did in the day of Christ. They must go to him for spiritual discernment and those who go, He, “will in no wise cast out” John 6:37.

The most foolish thing in the mind of the natural man is to go to church and study the Bible. We believe the holy men of God gave the Bible to us and they wrote as God spoke to them. This being true, the natural man receives nothing from the Word of God because he cannot receive the things of God. Some people feel that after they are saved they know all there is to be known without studying the Bible, but the truth is that the more we study the Bible, the more we can understand the things of God. To grow as a Christian, it is necessary to read the Bible and pray daily. Not only should we read the Bible and pray, but also we should do the things what the Bible tells us to do and not do the things it tells us not to do.

VERSE 15:

“To judge” to discern, to appreciate and thus pass judgment upon. The spiritual man discern (def. – to make out the difference, to make out clearly) the things which are spiritually discerned, though he himself is not discerned or properly appreciated by any natural man.

“All things”, are limited by the context to the things of the Spirit, as spoken of here. It is not of the officers of the church only, nor of the church collectively, but of each and every man in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, that the apostle affirms this ability to discern the truth, excellence and beauty of divine things. It is as impossible that one man should discern for another what is true and good, as it is that one man should see for another. We must see for ourselves or not at all. Those who can see have the right to see. It is the office of the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth, to open our eyes to discern it in its true nature and to feel its power.

“Yet he himself is judged by no man”, this again is limited by the context. No man who has not the Spirit appreciates Him. Paul later says it was to him a small matter to be judged by man’s judgment, 4:3. So simply stated, Paul is saying that the spiritual man cannot be discerned or estimated aright by those who are not spiritual.

VERSE 16:

This passage is quoted from Isaiah 40:13. The interrogative (def. inquiring, questioning) form is a strong mode of denying that any one has ever known the mind of God. The argument of Paul is this, “No one can understand God.” No one can fully comprehend His plans, His feelings, His views, or His designs. No one by nature, under the influence of sense and passion, is either inclined to study His truths nor loves them when they are revealed. As no one can fully understand God by nature, neither can he understand those who are influenced by God and are like Him. No wonder the natural man regards the Christian’s religion as foolishness and the Christian as a fool.

“The mind of Christ”, means His views and feelings are influenced by His Spirit. Our own body will keep us from being spiritual. The moment we think we have grown so much that we no

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longer are having any trouble with ourselves, we are in for a surprise, I Corinthians 10:12 – “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”. We should strive with all of our strength to be spiritual at all times. We are saved with an eternal salvation, but our fellowship can be broken with the Lord and we will fail to enjoy the blessings in serving Him. Our eyes of faith will be dimmed and we cannot see the things that are worthwhile in this life. This is why so many backslidden Christians are living for the present world and not laying up treasures on the other side.

WORKSHEET
I Corinthians 2:10-16

1. Who is the revealer of divine wisdom?
2. Where did Paul say he got the words that were spoken?
3. In Old Testament we have God's people as children going to _____, learning through _____, _____ and _____, but with no realization of the wonderful truths now made known.
4. Who is it that searches the deep things of God and reveals them unto the children of God?
5. The revelation of God comes to us through the study of His Word, by the leadership of the _____.
6. The _____ of _____ knows the thoughts of _____.
7. Since it is not within _____ to _____ the things of _____, he must rely upon the _____ to reveal them unto him.
8. The more we study the Bible and pray, the more we can understand about _____ through the help of the _____.
9. The Holy Spirit will not reveal truth unto us if we have _____ Him through sin in our life.
10. The apostle stressed that the words used in his speaking and writings, were not taught by human wisdom, but by the _____.
11. The Spiritual man gets _____ from the _____ that are written in the Bible.
12. The Holy Spirit causes the _____ person to _____ for the truths of God just like the natural body hungers for the physical good.
13. Who is the natural man referred to by the Apostle Paul?
14. Why can the natural man not understand the things of God and His Word?
15. What does the mind of Christ mean?