

“The Wise Divide”

1 Corinthians Chapter 2

Paul in the last chapter moved the dividing line between the saved and unsaved.

In this chapter he point out another dividing point. This Next Division is Wisdom. God’s verses Man’s.

1Cr 2:1 1) Paul’s Reliance on God’s Power vs 1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

1Cr 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

- Acts 18 we read a brief description of when Paul came to Corinth. It says he came and met Pricilla and Aquila and taught in the synagogue and worked as a tent maker.
- Paul was more than likely able to be quite the orator. He was born and influenced in Tarsus. This was a city of universities well known for higher learning. As a Jew it was customary to learn a trade before endeavoring off on a sacred career path. (Jesus a carpenter, Paul a tent maker) Then he was taught by a great lawyer and scholar Gamaliel. In Acts 23:1-6 Paul says he was a Pharisee and the calling of the council as “brothers” implies that he may have been part of the Sanhedrin. (71 men that officiated from the highest council in Israel)
- “THE TESTIMONY OF GOD” - Paul had a PRIORITY for GOD’S TESTIMONY. Paul did not choose to preach himself, preach moral stories; He chose to preach the testimony of God.
- Paul didn’t come with talent (*superiority of speech or wisdom*) He had these but this wasn’t what he choose to showcase.
- “FOR I DETERMINED” - This was a choice of his. Paul chose to rely on the message of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified rather than his ability or talent. There is then a transfer of focus. From the gifted/talented man to Jesus.

1Cr 2:3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

- Again in Acts 18 we read that the Lord came to strengthen Paul
- Acts 18:9-11 “ *Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued [there] a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*”
- It is an odd thing that Paul had seemed for two missionary journeys encountered trials, prisons and beatings and handled them exceptionally. Yet, in Corinth, and it seems without any provocation he feared persecution. I believe these moments do come upon us.
 - First because we are still flesh and bone and our flesh will resist at times walking with God.
 - Secondly, because we need to be relying on the Spirit and on God’s ability not our own.

1Cr 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

1Cr 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

- PAUL UNDERSTOOD THE DIVISION OF LABOR.
 - Paul Preached (Jesus Christ and Him Crucified)
 - The Holy Spirit demonstrated Himself in Power. (God’s Power)
 1. Romans 1:16 “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”
 2. 1 Corinthians 1:18 “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”
 3. 1 Peter 1:5 “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”
- THE GOAL Paul did not emphasize his talent was he wanted TRUE CONVERSIONS. He didn’t want people to follow a man but men to follow Christ.
- The security of the believer is in the Power of God to convert the heart. Not in being persuaded through wise men’s argument. If persuaded into kingdom by argument one can be persuaded out of the kingdom by argument. Bet no one can argue against a converted heart.

1Cr 2:6 **2) God's Wisdom Hidden** vs 6-9

Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

- Paul acknowledges that he speaks wisdom. But it is:
 - Spoken to those who are mature (KJV=Perfect) Mature is accurate (Chapter 3)
 - This wisdom is not of this age (present earthly understanding)
 - This wisdom is not of the rulers of this age (present intellectual community) (KJV = coming to nothing)

1Cr 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

- This is GOD'S WISDOM not Paul's, not the world's and not intellectual communities'
- It is spoken in a mystery. Hidden ...by God

1Cr 2:8 *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

1Cr 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

- The intellectual community cannot understand. Because if they did they would not have crucified Jesus. They would have known Him to be God in flesh among them.
- This mystery fulfills what Paul paraphrased Isaiah 64:4 "For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him."
- This isn't talking about the design and physical characteristics of heaven. This is talking about SALVATION.

1Cr 2:10 **3) God's Wisdom Revealed** vs 10-13

For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Cr 2:11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

Revealed to us Through the Spirit

- This may have been hidden at once but God has now chosen to reveal this wisdom.
- It is revealed only through the Spirit. (Verse 10)
- It is only the Spirit of God who knows the thoughts of God.
 - No man can know another man's thoughts.
- Matthew 16:13-17 Jesus asked "who do people say I am?" There were a number of responses. But Peter declared, "You are the Christ." Jesus replied "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
- Do we realize the gift we have in the revelation we know in Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 3:8-10 "To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places."

1Cr 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things **freely** given to us by God,

The Spirit is Given and Received by us

FREELY

- NOW - not later. Not in heaven. But right NOW
- WE HAVE RECEIVED - Already done. It has happened. Not going to. Not partway. Done Completely.
- THE SPIRIT WHO IS FROM GOD - God's Holy Spirit. Who knows the deep things of God.
- We can now know God's Wisdom and it is FREELY given to us. We cannot earn it or pay for it.

1Cr 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Taught to speak wisdom

- Not only is wisdom revealed to us, Not only do we receive wisdom, Not only is wisdom given to us freely, But we now speak forth wisdom.
- The Holy Spirit teaches us Spiritual thoughts and Spiritual words. We speak using different vocabulary words. Who knew, before they were saved what justification, or redemption, or redeemed, or righteousness meant?

1Cr 2:14 **3) God's Wisdom Discerned** vs 14-16

But 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.

- Paul points out this division. The Natural Man to the Spiritual Man
- Every man is a natural man. Each of us was born into this world with an inheritance from Adam. We are born unregenerate. We have life, natural life but spiritually dead.
 - He can have intellect, breath, appetite, recreation, religion
 - He discerns everything around him by what he sees, feels, smells, tastes and hears.
 - But there is a realm that is not seen or understood by these 5 senses. They are spiritually appraised.
 - Spiritual Things are foolishness to the natural man. They simply cannot see, feel, smell, taste, or hear it. And if they cannot discern these spiritual things through these 5 senses they are silly.

1Cr 2:15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

- The Spiritual Man can appraise (discern, judge, evaluate) all things natural and spiritual.
- To the Spiritual Man it is crazy that the Natural Man cannot see spiritual things.
- "he himself is appraised by no one" - Paul is not saying that the Christian is above criticism or evaluation. This letter demonstrates that the Christian is evaluated. What it is saying by this is that the natural man cannot (does not have the ability) to judge the spiritual man.

1Cr 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

- The Spiritual Man has the mind of the Lord
- From Isaiah 40
- Mind of the Lord = understanding of purpose,

John Chapter 3:1-10

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" Nicodemus said to Him, "**How** can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**" "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." **Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?"**

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