

Bible Study September 27, 2023

I Corinthians 2: 1-16 Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Paul writes from Ephesus around AD 55, during Paul's third missionary journey. A major theme is communion with God as compared to communion with darkness. God has created His children for communion with Him and with each other. Unity is what God calls us to do in Christ, yet disunity is a major problem in Corinth. In Chapter 1 there is discord because of improper loyalty to particular Christian leaders.

2: 1-6 Christ Crucified Paul preaches the message of the cross, Christ crucified, rather than lofty logic or reason. Great preaching is not with lofty words or slick preaching, it is through the power of the Spirit and with God's power. Paul did use the system of logic and reason used by the philosophers of the day, rather he preached Christ crucified and His resurrection. Head knowledge of Christ is not saving knowledge. Salvation is a gift from God, the message received by faith through the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

2: 6-1-16 Wisdom from the Spirit It is a great mystery, only explained by God's revealing of Himself through His Son Jesus. The Spirit searches the depth of God's wisdom for us, revealing to our human heart the reality of faith, and the power of the Cross. It is not through human wisdom we comprehend the reality of the Christ's work on the Cross, the incomprehensible becomes reality by grace through faith in Christ alone.

The secret and hidden wisdom of God is centered in Christ and includes God's plan for the history of salvation, from before the foundation of the world.

Read Ephesians 1:3-10; I Cor. 2:9; Rev. 11:15; Rev. 22:5; and Acts 20:27

Who can know another person's thoughts? Only you know what is in your mind. In the same way, it is only through the Spirit that we are able to comprehend the mind of God. We receive through the Spirit, both in substance and in expression, through the preaching and the reading and the hearing of the Word of God, God's plan and the gift of salvation to His children.

The eternal gifts of God can only be received by those who are Spirit filled.

Read Romans 8:9; 2 Cor. 3:6-8; and Eph. 1:13

Unbelievers are not capable of understanding the things of God.

Read I Cor. 2: 14-16

Shorter Catechism Q4 - Q6; Q21-Q22; Q29-Q36