

Message #3 on 1 Cor 2:6-16 – A different mind

In 1 Corinthians 1 Paul the apostle spoke about the insufficiency, or failure of human wisdom – For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. Then in verse 1-5 of chapter 2 he argues that he is not a teacher of human wisdom – I did not come with eloquence or with wise and persuasive words. Then we come to the passage we are looking at today. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. It starts off by answering the question, "Is Paul anti-knowledge?" Is what Paul teaches, what the scriptures teach, nonsense?

The answer is absolutely not; in fact what he teaches is actually the highest wisdom attainable. This wisdom was not the wisdom of this age, or the rulers of this age. In other words this wisdom was not going to be found by reading every book in the world, or in a lifetime studying philosophy. The wisdom of this age will tell you that once an advanced global education is implemented then it will all be ok. If earning changed the world, why hasn't the world changed? Why do I know of a Ph.D. Student close to where I grew up that went on a murderous rampage in Aurora, Colorado. I think all education does is it makes us better at self-deception, and it only makes for smarter criminals. No amount of education will deal with a person's heart.

Others will argue that technology, or government, or programs can change the world. These may serve as guards so that things don't get as bad as they could be. But who in the world would argue that we have really advanced since the world began when you look at how messed up this world is, and how messed up our hearts are. Look at our country, poverty is at a high, government scandal has become commonplace. Have you noticed the mess in the Middle East lately? No, no earthly solution can ever fix the pain, the sorrow, and the sin of the individual heart which give birth to societal problems. Sinners can't fix other sinners problems. It's like asking an alcoholic to help you with alcoholism.

So we cannot fix our own problems, we do not even know where to begin. Why? Because we dwell in the realm of sin like a fish dwells in water. We cannot find a way out, unless it is revealed to us by someone that is not from the earthly realm. Paul is saying the wisdom of God the truth of salvation can only come from God. And he has revealed it in Jesus Christ. This truth then has been further revealed through Paul and the other apostles. That is what Paul talks about when he says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him," – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Apostle Paul was writing these words by the inspiration of the Spirit, and it is through the Spirit of God that this awesome most unexpected salvation has taken place through Jesus of Nazareth. In that person do we find the answer to our deepest longings for peace, justice, love. And that person is revealed by the Spirit of God.

You see we believe in a triune God who is three in one, Father Son, and Holy Ghost, or Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God because he is God. And because he is God, and he knows God, he alone is able to reveal them to us. Think about it, if God is God, then he is totally above us, and we would never know what went on in his mind unless he revealed it to us. We cannot know the things of God - Just as we cannot know each other's thoughts. As Paul writes, "For who among men accepts

the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

But the beauty of the Gospel is everyone who believe in Christ, has been given His Spirit. That is why the apostle can say, "we have the mind of Christ!" A Christian is a person who has been renewed, and touched not through some epiphany, or by somehow finding themselves, but A Christian is a Christian because God has revealed himself to him or her. I challenge those who are listening now to read a bible, or go to church and pray that God would reveal himself to you. He is faithful. Ask him to open the eyes of your heart. Just as he healed the blind on earth he will heal your blindness and open your eyes to the awesome reality and simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That he died for you, and he was raised from the dead so that you too may have life. Life that is filled with a community of people who have the mind of Christ – the Spirit who gives them love joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

This truth of life, this is the mystery of the Gospel that changes hearts is given to all who believe in Jesus Christ. It is not only for the learned for the elders, priests, or professors of theology. But it is for you friend. Only through the power of the Spirit will your eyes be opened to see the truth of the God – the excellence and beauty of the divine.

And when you believe in Christ you have but one judge. People may judge the Christian religion. We all know you cannot judge something that you know nothing. Those who judge it judge the king of the universe. "As the bible says, "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" The obvious answer is no one knows the mind of the Lord, unless he gives them his Spirit. Then they have the mind of Christ. But for everyone who has the Spirit - their eyes are opened to see truth, excellence, power, beauty, and glory of the Divine.