

JUNE 1, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
The Book of 1 Corinthians – Part 2, Chapter 2
A 4th Calling: Have The Mind of Christ

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological and missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the 'CHURCH LIVE & GROWING'. As we have made our way through the Book of Acts we have stopped at various points to delve into other books of the New Testament that seem to have been written at that specific point in time. We just completed study of Acts 19 and it seems that at this point in the 30 plus year time span that the book of Acts covers, that Paul took the time to **write to the Church in Corinth.**

SLIDE:



Last week we discovered that the Church in Corinth As Warren Wiesbe states it was a **Defiled Church, A Divided Church and a Disgraced Church**, ouch!

The Church had been saved, baptized and given basic discipleship, but it appears that the cosmopolitan atmosphere of debauchery, hyper-sexuality, materialism, and prideful academia had caused them to slide into >>> **Defilement, Division and Disgrace.**

We then discovered how Paul, the consummate Pastor, Discippler, Encourager and Disciplinarian responded to those problems. Paul uses a tried and true approach that he has used in previous church issues. He **REMINDS** them of their **HIGH CALLING TO...**

1. **Be Holy**
2. **Develop A Rich And Genuine Fellowship Of Harmony and Love**
3. **Fulfill Their Ultimate Goal To Glorify God.**

In 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 we discover a 4th Calling designed to help the Church become a...

>>> **Re-Directed Church**

Paul continues his response to the

>>> **Defilement, Division and Disgrace by Re-Directing them with a 4TH CALLING FOR THE CHURCH...**

4. **Have the Mind of Christ** (see vs. 2:16b)

In 1 Corinthians 2:1-16... We find the Church is also **Deluded & Polluted**. Paul seeks to guide them to be **Re-Rooted & Re-Routed** away from futile wisdom and philosophy of man to the **True Wisdom & Power of God.**

Paul then proceeds to **RE-DIRECT** the minds of the Church by **RE-MINDING** them that is through the

power of the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God.
His message is focused on the **Priority of the Cross of Christ** and **RE-MINDING** them of their forgotten calling and grace gift that they have at their disposal... the **MIND OF CHRIST!**

1st Re-Directing Reminder:

Focus On The Priority of the Cross:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5:

*¹When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. ²For I didn't think it was a good idea to know anything among you except **JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED.** ³I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, ⁵so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power.*

As I mentioned in our 1st message from Chapter 1, the Church had lost its focus and was defiled, divided and disgraced. The key factor that Paul brings out is that they had placed their focus and priority on human wisdom, power and philosophy.

Let's look at Two (2) Rx/Prescriptions that Paul gives in this Re-Directing...

• **The 1st Rx/Prescription for this spiritual sickness... Renew a Priority Focus on the POWER of the Cross of Christ.**

The Corinthian church had slipped back into their old worldly, carnal nature by placing their focus on human effort, power and ability rather than on God. Corinthian society was built on human speech, wisdom and knowledge. They loved their orators, philosophers and pagan religious leaders. They became 'groupies' and developed 'fan clubs' around their favorite 'human heroes'.

Paul quickly addresses and distances himself from these 'human heroes'. He quickly reminds them that he is not to be elevated as a hero. Remember in Chapter, Paul chastises them about their 'hero worship partisanship' that they built around himself (Paul), Apollos & Peter. (see Acts 1:12)

Paul soundly Re-Directs them to the Priority "***Jesus Christ and Him Crucified***" (vs. 2b).

He slams the pride of human effort even more in verses 3 & 4 and Reminds them that he came in human '***weakness, fear and trembling***' and not in '**human persuaded**' words, but in '**Spirit-Powered demonstrations**'. With the intended result that their Faith be based on '***God's Power***' not '***Mans worldly, weak wisdom***'.

Paul reminds us in this section that the Message of the Cross needs to be simple, clear, sincere and dependent on God's power. A point that today's Pastors, Teachers and

Leaders would do well to **Remember**.

- **The 2nd Rx/Prescription for this spiritual sickness...
Renew a Priority Focus on the WISDOM of God**

1 Corinthians 2:6-9...⁶ However, we do speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written: What eye did not see and ear did not hear, and what never entered the human mind—God prepared this for those who love Him.

Just as Paul emphasized in the previous section the foolishness of Human Power, in this section, he zeroes in on the foolishness of Human Wisdom.

Paul firmly Reminds them that he speaks from a Godly Wisdom source and not of the world. It is a common position among the worldly seekers of wisdom that they have a 'secret, mysterious' insight that the average person does not have. It gives them a false sense of pride and power. But Paul stings them with the comment that the so-called 'wisdom of the world' is really foolishness and incapable of understanding the true 'Mystery of God'. The idea of the Mystery of the Gospel is a deep and challenging subject, but in summary it simply applies to the fact that in the Old testament the framework and design for God's plan of salvation was clearly laid out, but sadly followers of God were blinded by their sin and

self-wisdom that they failed to piece together the intricate pattern and plan of God to provide salvation for all people, not through works of the law, but by the sacrificial death of Christ on the Cross, His Burial and His Resurrection. If the Old Testament believers and those Jews of Jesus' Day had truly had God's Wisdom, they would have clearly seen that Jesus was the True Christ, messiah and savior of the world. Then they would have believed and not crucified Him.

If we will rely of the Power and Wisdom of God we will have the blessed assurance of all that (vs.9b states)...

God prepared this for those who love Him.

Paul is encouraging the Church to have a confident, Christ-focused hope and claim all the power and wisdom that comes from a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

How about you?

Do you live in the Hope and Assurance that we have in Christ?

If we will Focus on the Priority of the Power & Wisdom of the Cross we can have that Hope and Assurance

2nd Re-Directing Reminder: **Focus On The Presence of the Mind of Christ**

In 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Paul gives us the 3rd & Final Rx for Spiritual Sickness...

Renew a Priority Focus on the Spirit of God to Develop in Us The Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:10-16...¹⁰ Now God has **REVEALED** *these things to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.* ¹¹ *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man that is in him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.* ¹² *Now we have not **RECEIVED** the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.* ¹³ *We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, **EXPLAINING** spiritual things to spiritual people.* ¹⁴ *But the unbeliever does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is **EVALUATED SPIRITUALLY**.* ¹⁵ *The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone.* ¹⁶ *For who has known the Lord's mind, that they may instruct Him? **But We Have The Mind Of Christ.***

Paul **Re-Veals** & **Re-Directs** the church to the Priority of The Spirit of God to **Re-Ceive** True Godly Wisdom, Power and Faith by:

**Explaining Spritual Things,
Evaluating Spiritual Things,**
With the end result that
We have the Mind of Christ!

There is so much to discover and discuss from this section, but I am going to take Paul's advice and RE-MIND you to Re-DIRECT your Priority Focus to the Word of God, Empowered by the Holy Spirit, which I am firmly assured will help you to Develop and Maintain the MIND OF CHRIST.

The only question I have is ...

Will you commit to that end result? If you do we will accomplish the goal of Glorifying God! Amen!