

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Jesus Christ and Him Crucified
1 Cor 2

Last time...the Holy Spirit thru Paul got right down to business in this letter of correction
He starts with the most important of all issues addressed in this letter

- divisions and contentions
Prov 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention
- the preaching of the cross of Christ
 - to the Jews, a stumblingblock
 - to the Gentiles, foolishness
 - to those saved, the power of God and the wisdom of God

This time...the preaching of the cross, continued

- Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- the hidden wisdom of God
- a mystery of God revealed and taught by His Spirit

We will be in 1 Cor 2

v1-2 when I came to you...Jesus Christ and Him crucified:

Paul states his frame of mind when he originally came to Corinth.

He came from Athens...where he reasoned with the Greek philosophers
(Acts 17:17-31) to very little avail

He came to Corinth to declare the testimony of God, the witness of God
to man

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given
to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that
hath not the Son of God hath not life.

He did not come to Corinth to declare God's testimony with a superior
skills in debating philosophical things (which the Greeks loved!)

Instead, perhaps on the walk from Athens to Corinth, he decided to know ONLY
Jesus Christ and Him crucified, The Good Shepherd Who said

John 10:17-18

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I
lay down my life, that I might take it again.
No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down
of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I
have power to take it again. This
commandment have I received of my Father.

v3-5 And I was with you:

And for the duration of the 18 months Paul was in Corinth, he was

- in weakness...in human frailty and with no self-confidence (Phil 3:3) but in God's strength
- in fear and in much trembling/quaking in fear...as if waiting for the other shoe to drop – persecution by the Jews, just like everywhere else he had preached the Gospel

The Apostle Paul, feisty and bold, was fearful?

Yes, he was human

Fear is a part of the corrupt and fallen human condition in this cursed world ruled by the prince of darkness

Remember, his calling came with much suffering...

Acts 9:15-16 the Lord said unto him, *Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

But, Paul spoke and acted on what he knew and NOT on what he felt (emotions)

He knew: The Lord was with him, protecting him from harm

Acts 18:9-10 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.*

He knew: Jesus Christ and Him crucified

He knew: 2 Tim 1:7

This is for all of us in these days of madness – do not act and speak based on what you feel (emotions/flesh) but on what you know (indwelling Spirit)

We stand on what we know, not what we feel

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Rom 8:15-18

In these evil and tumultuous days:

Faith, Not Fear

Follow the Good Shepherd, be not driven by fear

Heb 11:1 faith is seeing what God sees (2 Kings 6:8-17)
The enemy that surrounds us is...surrounded!

Heb 11:6 fear of man is not pleasing
Seeking the Invisible God and trusting what He sees is
pleasing

Heb 11:8 follow The Leader, knowing Him and not the details

2 Cor 5:7 trusting God and not our eyes

Prov 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto
thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge
him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own
eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Trust God's "counter-culture" wisdom and not your own

Rom 14:23b sin: not trusting God (what He sees and says) but trusting
in Self and own eyes and "wisdom" instead

Seek the wisdom of God for every decision, and however He leads,
walk by faith and not fear

Do not rely on your eyes, do not think more highly of yourself than you
should

Don't rely on man's wisdom, do not fear man
Rely on God's revealed wisdom, fear God

For the duration of the 18 months he was in Corinth, Paul's speaking and
preaching was

- not the ear-tickling, entertaining, persuasive words from
human reasoning (only as "big" as a man)
- a demonstration/manifestation of the Spirit of God and the power of
God with, in, and upon him (as "big" as the Almighty)
- of the simplicity of Christ...1 Cor 15:3-4,
Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- so that their faith (Heb 11:6) would be founded on and grounded in the
power of God and not on the flawed and finite wisdom of man that
appeals to man's flesh

v6 not the wisdom of this world...princes:

The wisdom of God spoken by Paul, Silas, and Timothy (Acts 18:5) was spoken among/"in" those made whole/complete...
heard it, received it, believed it, growing in understanding of it

Unlike the Greek philosophers, Paul did not speak and preach

- the wisdom of this world, based on the 5 physical senses and man's intellectual capacity
- the wisdom of the princes/rulers of this world
 - kings, presidents, PMs, Speakers of the House, governors
 - Eph 6:12 we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

because it all comes to nothing, it is useless, completely unhelpful in man's dilemma – death

The leader of al-Qaeda said yesterday, "Jerusalem will not be Jewish."

In this nation, the wisdom of man is a clown show

Woke and cancel culture

Politics...everything is politicized

Politics genders strife, has NO answers for mankind

The wisdom of the world and of the rulers of the world come to nothing

The world is passing away

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever

v7-8 we speak the wisdom of God:

So, Paul did not waste any of his precious time with political or philosophical "sword play"

Instead, with the heart of the Father for all those lost souls in wicked Corinth, he spoke and preached the wisdom of God – Jesus Christ and Him crucified

- Spiritual, not carnal or worldly wisdom
- a mystery...the mystery of the Christ, a truth from before the foundation of the world being revealed/uncovered to mankind by God
- a hidden wisdom...requiring faith to see what God sees
 - Rom 16:25-26
 - Eph 3:1-12

- a wisdom completely “missed” (due to unbelief) by the princes/rulers of this world
 - had they known the wisdom of God (Jesus Christ and Him crucified), they would not have participated in its accomplishment
 - in glorious irony, Satan labored for his own demise/defeat
 - Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage
 - Col 2:10-15
 - 1 Peter 1:9-12, 18-21

v9 Eye...ear...heart...God has prepared:

Paul is quoting Is 64:4...as if God’s grace and forgiveness and a crown of righteousness are not enough!

By His unsearchable (will never know the breadth and depth) wisdom

Rom 11:33 His ways are past finding out...unsearchable

Ps 145:3 His greatness is unsearchable

Ps 147:5 His understanding is infinite

God has things for those who love/agape Him that no man has seen, heard, contemplated, or can even comprehend

This past Wed night in Gen 33, “I have enough”

v9 by Esau, a carnal man: “abundance of worldly things” which are temporary

v11 by Jacob/Israel, a spiritual man: “all, everything”, the riches of God in heavenly places which are eternal

When we have enough/everything, we always have enough/abundance (Phil 4:11-13, 19; Matt 6:33)

The opposite cannot be said

Prov 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death

Prov 13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches

v10-11 But God has revealed unto us by His Spirit:

God has revealed/uncovered His wisdom

- the hidden wisdom
- a mystery
- spiritual/eternal wisdom
- Jesus Christ and Him crucified

to us by His Spirit

John 14:26 teach us all things

John 15:26 testify of Jesus

John 16:13 guide us in Truth

The wisdom of God, deep within the Person of God, must be revealed to a person by His Spirit...it cannot be discovered by any person

It is impossible for the flawed and finite creature to “explore” that which cannot ever be explored: the heart and mind of the Infinite and Invisible Creator

For spiritually unregenerate man to know the wisdom of God, God must reveal it
“Jesus Christ and Him crucified” is a revelation of God
Matt 13:10-11, 14-17

The wisdom of God cannot be heard, seen, or understood apart from faith

Note: Not only can the heart of God not be discovered by the flesh,
neither can the heart of man (Jer 17:9)

v12-13 that we might know:

The wisdom of God, the mystery of the Christ, has been received by mankind by the Holy Spirit of God and NOT by the unholy spirit of this world...
for a reason

That we might know the things God has freely...and undeservedly...
given whosoever believes

- victory over death
- salvation from His justifiable wrath
- eternal life
- reconciliation/sonship
- favor and kindness
- love

All purchased by the blood of the Lamb of God

All revealed and taught by the Holy Spirit of God and never by the unholy spirit of this world

God is Spirit, supernatural

The wisdom of God is spiritual, supernatural...not worldly and not natural

And the wisdom of God can only be compared with the wisdom of God,
never with the wisdom of man;

This is why, to rightly divide the Scriptures, we compare Scriptures to
Scriptures and not to the traditions/philosophies/opinions of man

The Father wants all mankind to know!

1 Tim 2:4-5

2 Peter 3:9

Many in Corinth would know!

Acts 18:10b **I have much people in this city.**

A modern day Trojan Horse – the invasion of psychology into the Church.

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior, of how people
behave, think and feel.

There are many branches/disciplines in Psychology, medical and
non-medical

Given the Cliff Notes of God's Word (Matt 22:36-40, John 13:34,
Rom 13:10), when I say "psychology", I am referring to the
non-medical disciplines like social and relational psychology that
have invaded the Church and undermine fundamental tenants of
Biblical Christianity.

- The Word of God says that Jesus Christ is our Wonderful Counselor and hidden in Him are the treasures of knowledge and wisdom; psychology looks within to understand the invisible no man can see and explain – the mind and the heart (Jer 17:9).
- The Word of God says all men have fallen short of God's standard of righteousness and are destined for physical and spiritual death were it not for the glorious and costly solution He provided by His grace through faith in Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice; psychology uses man as the standard of acceptability and justifies man's corrupt behavior via sweet-sounding labels and contrived maladies.
- The Word of God says we are to humbly deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Jesus to find forgiveness, wisdom, knowledge, strength, and hope in His resurrected life; psychology proudly promotes self-esteem.

- The Word of God says that all that God has for us is available in Jesus Christ, Who gives us His life of peace, joy, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control; psychology offers the help of man and self-improvement.
- The Word of God the inspired, absolutely authoritative, and completely sufficient words of God to man to allow him to be free and whole; psychology claims that truth lies in each man i.e relative truth
- The Word of God, by God the Holy Spirit, guides us to all truth and transforms us into the image of Jesus Christ; psychology attempts to build on the foundation of man with “a better you” and “you do you” philosophies
- The Word of God says that knowing God is the ultimate issue of time and eternity; psychology says we need to know ourselves.
- The Word of God says we are to love God with everything we have and then to love others as we love ourselves; psychology says we cannot love anybody else until we first love ourselves.

Psychology is a broken cistern that provides no answers to the problems of mankind...because the problems of mankind are spiritual!

It is a religious system (humanism) looking within man for answers that cannot be found there, leading people in spiritual darkness.

The Bible warns us against such subtle deceits that in the end times will tickle people's ears and lead them away from the sound doctrine of God.

Rather than embracing this cancer, the Body of Christ needs radical surgery to purge this wisdom of man.

v14-15 the natural man...foolishness...spiritually discerned:

The natural/spiritually unregenerate/not-born-again-of-the-Spirit-of-God thinks “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” is utter nonsense.

They cannot receive it because the wisdom of God is spiritual, and they are carnal and spiritually dead

The spiritually dead cannot perceive/apprehend that which only the Holy Spirit knows – the deep things of God

But can they receive the teaching of the Holy Spirit?

Yes, when they look for answers outside themselves...turn from their ways and their “wisdom” and turn toward God and His ways and wisdom, by faith, receiving/believing, not by intellectual understanding

A person can know God only by faith and only because:

1. God takes the initiative to turn him/her (Gen 3:8-9, 2 Tim 2:25)
2. God reveals Himself to man (Rom 1:18-20)
3. God gives a 2nd birth (resurrects the dead spirit)

At the end of Self is the beginning of God

Is 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye
 upon him while he is near
Matt 7:7 Seek and ye shall find
Rom 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him
 shall not be ashamed.
Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord
 shall be saved

A person MUST be born-again to perceive/apprehend/discern “Jesus Christ and Him crucified”

Those who are born-again (John 1:12-13, John 3:3) discern all these things

And those who are born-again are not perceived/discerned by those who are not
A spiritually regenerated person looks outwardly like a spiritually
unregenerated person

The change (new creatures in Christ), which is massive, is internal,
of the heart where only God perceives

v16 instruct him...mind of Christ:

The unregenerate creature thinks “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” is foolishness

Did the Creator ask his/her opinion?

Does his/her opinion matter i.e. alter the eternal truths of God?

Does the creature know more than the Creator?

Does the clay critique or instruct the Potter?

Is 40:13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his
 counsellor hath taught him?

Rom 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath
 been his counsellor?

But the regenerated creature has the mind of Christ...and the faith of Christ!

Phil 2:3-8 Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Matt 26:39, 42, 44 Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Therefore, Rom 12:2

Who knows what God is going to do in our lives in the next 3 weeks as we,
with the mind of Christ, walk by faith with Him?

None of us

We shall find out!

Take-away

Knowing only Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Man is created in the image of God, the Creator of the universe
We ran away from home, the presence of our Father (Acts 17:28)
We wanted to see the world and have the glittery things of the world
Our relationship with the Father was fractured
We got lost, wandering around in the darkness

But then, we had a realization, a thought from where we knew not
Our Father exists...He is
The heavens, the entire creation bears witness of that fact
The Father loves us
He is looking for us, calling us
And He provided a Light on the Way home: Jesus Christ and Him crucified

All we had to do was turn around (repent) and follow the Light on the Way
When we did that, we the estranged from the Father are reconciled to the Father...His children

Following the Light on the Way home means going against the world, which creates friction
It is not easy to follow the Light on the Way home...but our Father sent us a Helper
By the power of the Helper, we follow the Light on the Way home, getting understanding and clarity as we go

And as we go against the flow of the world, we are to invite the people walking the wrong way in the darkness to come into the Light and come home, too

Lay hands on us and pray for us going to E