

Which Wisdom Do You Seek? (1 Cor 2)

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Introduction: Paul wants to remind the Corinthians where God's power is found.

- A. If you look in the wrong place you will never find what you are looking for.
 - 1. The Jews and Greeks have proved this point already! **(1:22-23)**
 - 2. Sometimes it is easier to see the mistakes of others than to see your own mistakes! Paul reminds them of those who rejected the gospel.
 - 3. The Corinthians were being influenced by some who were following the flesh and not following God.
- B. The first step in solving any problem concerning God's will is to recognize where to find God's wisdom.
 - 1. The Corinthians had very serious problems to be solved. **(1:10-13)**
 - 2. Any problem can be solved if we will look to find God's will.
 - 3. Throughout this book we will see Satan's wisdom that some Corinthians were following contrasted with God's wisdom.

I. God's wisdom is not found where the world wants to look.

- A. All things have a value. It is important to determine their eternal value!
 - 1. **Example:** "How much did that house cost?" **(Mt 16:26)**
 - 2. Wisdom teaches us the real value of things.
- B. Things that are nothing when compared to God's wisdom. **(1 Cor 2:1-5)**
 - 1. **excellence of speech**
 - 2. **excellence of ...wisdom - not just a philosophy!**
 - 3. **human strength**
 - 4. **human confidence**, consider the humble beginnings of the church there. Paul was not the overconfident philosopher. **(Acts 18:9-10)**
 - 5. **persuasive words (2 Cor 10:10; 2 Cor 4:2)**
 - 6. Please note that Paul does not condemn eloquence. **(Acts 18:24)**
 - 7. When the presentation and personality of the speaker is emphasized then you will get a certain result. **(Ezk 33:30-33)**
- C. Contrast to this God's Wisdom.
 - 1. Jesus Christ and him crucified. **(2:2)**
 - 2. The "demonstration of the Spirit and of power," - This is the confirmation of the divine revelation **(Mark 16:17-20; 2 Cor 12:12)**
 - 3. The power of God.- Who wants to fight God? **(Acts 5:39; Rom 1:16)**
 - 4. What was Paul's view of himself? **(2 Cor 4:7)**
 - 5. Where does your faith rest?

II. God's wisdom has greater appeal as we mature

- A. There are many things that have changed in my life as I have grown older.
 - 1. Some tastes may be a matter of physical changes.
 - 2. Others hopefully are a matter of maturity! **(1 Cor 13:11)**
 - 3. God's wisdom will not have the flashy appeal of the world, but it will have the

power of God that will produce lasting change.

- B. We need to develop every Christian to have the “taste” for this wisdom!
 - 1. Discernment may seem “traditional and out of style” to the immature. **(Heb 5:11-14)**
 - 2. Paul knew there were limits as to what he could preach to certain Christians. **(1 Cor 2:6; 1 Cor 3:1-3)**
 - 3. When true maturity develops one is able to see God’s way clearly. **(2:15)**
- C. We must be patient as we help other Christians grow.
 - 1. In the beginning a Christian will struggle with carnality! **(1 Cor 3:1-3)**
 - 2. The humble heart that can be corrected will learn and change! God’s power will establish these people. **(Rom 16:25)**
- D. The proud, however, will fight God. They also will always lose. **(2:7-8)**
 - 1. It made perfect sense to the rulers to put Jesus to death! Satan thought so too.
 - 2. In fact they played a role in their own destruction as they followed the popular worldly wisdom! **(1 Pt 1:20; Acts 2:23)**
 - 3. In their ignorance they were confident!! **(Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17; 13:27)**

III. God’s wisdom brings true blessings.

- A. God wants to richly bless all men. **(1 Cor 2:9)**
 - 1. Satan does not want men to see this. **(2 Cor 4:4)**
 - 2. Satan is like the politician who tries to slander an opponent so others will close their ears.
- B. God has chosen to reveal His will to inspired men. **(1 Cor 2:10-13)**
 - 1. Inspiration brings a certainty to those who will listen. **(Mt 10:19-20)**
 - 2. Where do we find “the things freely given to us from God?” **(2:12)**

IV. What kind of heart finds God’s wisdom?

- A. The natural man does not. **(1 Cor 2:14)**
 - 1. Jesus in His ministry pointed out why some could not believe. **(Jn 5:41-47)**
 - 2. Most people reject what God says not because of evidence but because of their wills!
 - 3. Do not be intimidated by those who laugh and make fun of the truth. **(2 Pt 3:3-4)**
- B. The humble heart can have “the mind of Christ.” **(2:15-16)**
 - 1. This cannot take place until we let go of our own wills.
 - 2. When we have this mind there is great power and peace in our hearts.
 - 3. Are you willing to find the mind of Christ in all things? **(Col 3:17)**

Conclusion: What are we really seeking after in life?

- A. If the Lord really is my Shepard, what shall I want or fear? **(Psa 23:1-6)**
- B. are you growing spiritually?