

- Can man through the wisdom of the world come to know God?
- How can we come to know God?
- Christ crucified was to the Jews a _____ and to the Greeks _____.
- Describe the calling of the Corinthians (v.26). Does this prove anything about the wisdom of men?
- Why did God choose the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise?



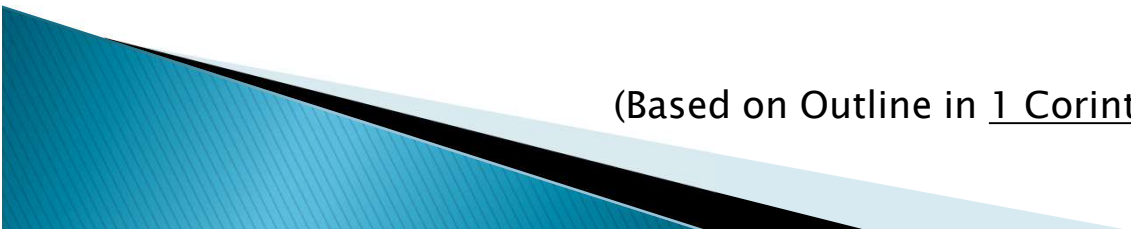
- When Paul came to Corinth, did he come in excellency of speech or in wisdom?
- True or False: Paul was with the Corinthians in weakness, fear, and in much trembling.
- Why was Paul's speech and preaching not with persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power?



Outline of 1 Corinthians

- I. Greetings (1:1–3)
- II. Thanksgiving (1:4–9)
- III. **Addressing the problem of factions (1:10–4:21)**
- IV. Addressing problems of morality (5:1–6:20)
- V. Answers to questions concerning marriage (7:1–40)
- VI. The proper use of liberties (8:1–11:1)
- VII. Addressing problems relating to worship (11:2–14:40)
- VIII. The resurrection (15:1–58)
- IX. Instruction regarding the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, including Paul's planned visit (16:1–9)
- X. Concluding remarks (16:10–24)

(Based on Outline in 1 Corinthians, a Study by Mike Willis, 1996, p.vii)



The gospel is indeed wisdom, but it is God's hidden wisdom now revealed 2:6-16

Vss. 6-9 “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who
love Him.’”



The gospel is indeed wisdom, but it is God's hidden wisdom now revealed 2:6–16

Vss. 10–13 “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”



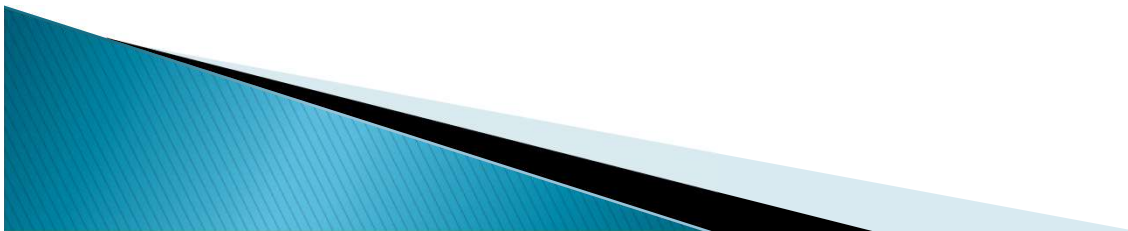
The gospel is indeed wisdom, but it is God's
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Vss. 14-16 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”



The Corinthians were carnal and behaving according to wisdom of the world 3:1-4

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal?”



Here's the proper view to have of preachers and teachers 3:5-9

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.”



Take Aways

- ▶ God will not be known through the wisdom of men
- ▶ God's plan could be known only through revelation
 - The Holy Spirit was God's agent of revelation and inspiration
 - The apostles and prophets received that revelation and spoke it
 - And we have it in written form!
- ▶ The gospel does not claim to be just another philosophy of men. It is narrow and exclusive. Accept it and follow it and you put yourself on a collision course with men who do not receive it
 - The world's estimation of Christians will not be favorable



Take Aways

- ▶ We must take responsibility for our own spiritual growth
- ▶ There is great danger in not growing spiritually. Consider the impact upon the temple of God.
- ▶ A proper estimation of teachers is that they are simply men like you and me who are fellow workers in the kingdom in which God gives the increase
- ▶ A teacher's proper estimation of himself is that he is God's servant and fellow-worker to whom God has given ability and opportunity

