

# Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

## 1 Corinthians

Victory Christian Center Elder Tim Herman April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Causes of division (1:18-4:5)

- 2:1...Paul did not use a preaching style that was filled with “excellence” (Greek is *hoop-er-okh-ay'* meaning superiority or elevated), even though this is how the Greeks were accustomed to hearing about “religion”
- 2:2...Paul is only interested in preaching about Jesus and His crucifixion (note 1:23)
- 2:3...Paul preached in a spirit of timidity and “weakness” and did not consider himself to be persuasive enough to convince people of Christ
- 2:4
  - The Greeks were accustomed to philosophical reasoning, but Paul's preaching was based on the demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power (see 2 Cor. 12:12)
  - Man's wisdom is constantly evolving or declining, but the believer's faith stands upon the power of God
- God's wisdom (2:6-16)
  - 2:6...understood by the “mature” Christians
    - New-born Christians need “milk”: 1 Cor. 3:1-2,
    - Adult Christians eat “meat”: Heb 5:11-14
    - Letters to the mature: John, Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews
- 2:6
  - The world has never understood the “wisdom” of God...this includes Jews, Greeks, Romans, Americans, and any other secular group
  - Secular humanism and mystical religions will all come to naught...none of them will outlast Christ
- 2:7-10...God's secret wisdom
  - V.7...God's plan and wisdom is eternal (“God destined...before time began” (Rev. 13:8, 2 Tim. 1:8-10), but man's wisdom is constantly changing
  - God's secret wisdom: revealed to believers, but concealed from non-believers (2 Cor. 4:3, Eph 3:6, 1 Tim 3:16)
- 2:7-10...God's secret wisdom
  - V.8...The Jews and Romans in particular would not have crucified Christ if they understood that this was the plan of God...the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah!
  - V.9...
    - Literal translation: “*but, according as it hath been written, `What eye did not see, and ear did not hear, and upon the heart of man came not up, what God did prepare for those loving Him*”
    - quoting Isaiah 64:4...seems to limit our ability to comprehend, but see next verse
  - V.10...God “reveals” His secret to us, Greek is *ap-ok-al-ooop'-to* meaning to uncover or make bare
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- V.10...God “reveals” His secret to us by His Spirit, Greek is *ap-ok-al-ooop'-to* meaning to uncover or make bare
  - Human ability and research doesn't compare to spiritual revelation
  - Luke 10:21, John 16:13, 1 John 20, 27,
  - Spirit “searches” Greek is *er-yoo-nah'-o*: *investigate, research*
- 2:11-16...how God shares His secret wisdom with us
  - V.11
    - ”for what man knows the things of man” Greek for “know” is *i'-do* meaning to see or know by personal experience
    - Only you know what you are thinking, and it's the same way with God...only God's Spirit knows what He's thinking
  - V. 12...Christ-followers have received God's spirit (not the world's spirit), and this allows us to “know” (same Greek word *i'-do*) what God has given us. What would it be like to have another person's spirit..to know everything that person knows and experiences?
  - V.13...the world does not understand God or His church because:
    - Our words do not come from human wisdom
    - Believers combine spiritual ideas with spiritual words
  - V.14...the “natural” man literally means *man with animal soul*
    - Does not accept God's wisdom (Rom 8:7)
    - Consider God's ways to be foolishness
    - Cannot understand what God is saying because the words are spiritually “discerned”, Greek is *an-ak-ree'-no* meaning to investigate for a judge or court (forensic)
  - V.15...the spiritual man's judgment (same as discern in v.14) is superior to other men, and we are not subject to other men's opinions regarding spiritual matters
  - V.16...quoting Isaiah 40:13,14...we have the mind of Christ!