
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,

what no ear has heard,

and what no human mind has conceived”—

the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord

so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Paul's wisdom on wisdom:

1. The wisdom of the world is contrary to the wisdom of the cross.
2. Christians should be more concerned with adherence to the message of the cross than the attractiveness of the preacher.
3. Christian spirituality cannot be reduced to human reflection on life.
4. Christian maturity is demonstrated through life application of God's wisdom and word.

Two Questions:

1. When am I tempted to rely on human eloquence and wisdom in my life?
2. How has the Holy Spirit brought about wisdom and maturity in my life recently?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a moment and read the passage of Scripture together as a group.

Share something with the group that the Spirit has taught you recently (perhaps in life group, a sermon or in your own quiet time).

What importance does listening to the Spirit have in the discernment of what the Spirit is speaking?

Do you have anyone in your life that considers spiritual things “foolish?” How about in the practical things of faith? How do you commit to sharing Christ with them?

Does this passage change your perspective on praying for the work of the Spirit in each other's lives? For both the saved and unsaved?

What is your takeaway from this message?

Consider Pastor Luke's two questions.