

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Practical Teaching for Daily Living

Discussion Guide

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Sermon Title **Seeing From God's Point of View** by Paul R. Martin
I Corinthians 2:1-3:5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ⁹ but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." ¹⁰ For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

^{NASB} 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Introduction: It is not God's purpose for us that we walk through this life confused and mystified by circumstances and events that surround us. God wants us to understand His purposes, to see His presence and to understand His goals for our life and those around us. God wants us to know Him and to be able to walk victoriously through the chaos of this life as wise men and women who truly know what it is all about.

Sermon Outline

- I. **God has prepared amazing vistas of spiritual insight for those who love Him (2:9)**

Why is spiritual knowledge and understanding important?

 - A. It is key to transformational living (Rom 12:1-2)
 - B. It is offered freely by God as a cherished possession (Proverbs 8, James 1:5)
 - C. It is the chain that anchors our faith (Hebrews 11:1, 6)
 1. It is not the anchor...that is Jesus Christ
 2. But we are not asked simply to *believe*, but to believe in Someone and to believe something (absolute truth & reality rather than existentialism)
- II. **The wisdom and spiritual insight that God offers cannot be discovered naturally**
 - A. Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, it has never occurred to the natural mind (2:9)
 - B. It cannot be attained by determined effort and rational analysis, it must be revealed to the discerning heart by the Spirit of God (2:10-16)
 1. Once seen it is always logically consistent and reasonable
 2. Once explained it always fits grammatical/historical exegesis
 - C. God has actually hidden these things from the wise and prudent and reserved it for us to our glory (2:7, see also Matthew 11:25)
- III. **Who can have the wisdom and insight that God gives?**
 - A. Not the natural man, spiritual truths make no sense to him, he rejects them
 - B. Not the fleshly believer, they do not satisfy his personal agenda & goals
 1. Carnal believers have the same limited capacity as unbelievers
 2. They are only able to feed on milk which lacks mature nutrition
 3. Carnality is revealed in deeds of the flesh, insight can be gained by listening to yourself pray: "Lord, help ME do...", "Lord change ME so that I...", rather than, "Lord I am your servant, reveal to me YOUR purposes and work through me for YOUR glory and will."
 - C. The humble believer who recognizes his/her total dependence upon God and out of love for God is willing to do whatever God desires, this is the one to whom God will reveal His plans and spiritual understanding.
 1. Revelation comes most often through the written Word (the Bible)
 2. Revelation comes by the Holy Spirit Who explains what He has written
 3. In addition to humble dependence and sincere love for God, we must be people of prayer and of the Word in order to have spiritual insight.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why is it important to understand the mysteries God is willing to share? With whom will He share these mysteries?
- 2) What does world view have to do with trusting God in difficult circumstances?
- 3) Upon what does our faith rest, according to this passage of Scripture?
- 4) How does Paul define maturity in terms of those who can understand?
- 5) What is the key difference between the natural and the spiritual person?
- 6) What three things keep unbelievers and carnal Christians from understanding the mysteries and deeper truths of God?
- 7) What are some ways of self-examination to determine if you are carnal or spiritual? Can you use these tests on others beside yourself?

NOTES:

God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not walking like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

1 Corinthians 3:1-5 NASB

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the men of old gained approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:1-6 NASB

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶ "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷ "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

Matthew 11:25-27 NASB



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