

1 Corinthians Series #7

"The Mind of Christ - Part 2" 1 Cor. 2:6-16

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Getting To Know God

1. The only way we are able to get to know each other is by sharing, communicating
 - a. if we don't, we can't
 - b. but through communication, we can
2. Apart from one person revealing him/herself to others, all we can know is the bare fact that they exist
3. So it is with God
 - a. though we cannot sense God Himself with our 5 senses
 - b. we can see many evidences for His existence and power
 - 1) creation
 - 2) design
 - c. but that is about as far as our senses and reason can take us
 - d. nature tells us nothing of the character or nature of God
 - e. if we are to really know God, He must reveal Himself to us

B. The Problem: How Can God Reveal Himself To Us

1. With people, we communicate through words and sight
 - a. eyes
 - b. ears
 - c. touch
2. God is Spirit
 - a. sense are useless
 - b. His revelation must come through a different avenue than the senses
3. That is what Paul speaks of in these verses

II. TEXT

A. Vs. 6-10

6 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.
7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,
8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 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."

10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

1. Paul says a lot here
2. His basic idea is this: God's revelation of Himself to man is not in terms of the wisdom of this world.
 - a. His revelation is not natural
 - b. it is supernatural
3. Up to this point he has contrasted the wisdom of the man and the wisdom of God
 - a. shown how the wisdom of God looks like foolishness to the lost
 - b. now - he turns it around and shows that it is not foolishness at all; it is real wisdom
 - c. the thing is - only the saved see it as such: to the world it still looks like nonsense

6 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.

4. The early church divided the Christian message into two distinct categories
 - a. first: KERYGMA = An announcement
 - 1) the bare facts of the gospel
 - 2) this was the message preached to the world
 - 3) Contained 4 essential elements
 - 1- All men are sinners
 - 2- Christ died for sinners
 - 3- Christ rose victorious over sin and death
 - 4- Christ is coming back again to rescue the saved and to judge the lost
 - b. second: DIDACHE = Teaching, instruction
 - 1) the training of believers in the word of God
 - 2) the riches of God's grace
 - 3) process of spiritual growth
 - 4) deeper things of God
5. Didache was reserved for the saved; it was not for the world
6. If the lost reject the basics of the gospel, they certainly would have no time for or interest in the deeper things of the spirit.
7. It is these deeper things that Paul speaks of in v. 6
8. In vs. 7-9, Paul says that the Gospel was always the plan and purpose of God
 - a. it was not an ad hoc solution to the problem of sin
 - b. from before the beginning, God knew all things and

- c. set the gospel as the means of saving us
 - c. this plan of God was hidden from the world; that's why Paul calls it a mystery
 - d. but in the fullness of times, Christ came and the mystery was revealed
9. V. 9 is often misquoted and misapplied

"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."

- a. usually applied to heaven
- b. used to comfort the grieving
- c. that is not what Paul is speaking about here
- d. notice v. 10

But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit.

- 10. Paul is talking about this life: The life of the Christian!
- 11. The Christian lives in two realms
 - a. the natural
 - b. the spiritual
 - c. there is struggle between the two
 - d. the more one grows in spiritual things, the more you realize the real joy and contentment in life does not lie in what the world offers but in walking in the Spirit and enjoying the grace of God
- 12. As a lost world looks at the Child of God, they are totally confused!
 - a. they do not understand how the Christian could be at such peace when the world is falling down around them
 - b. example of being unemployed: unsaved relatives and friends all worked up and anxious for you.
 - c. their eye has not seen, their ear has not heard, their heart has no way of grasping how the Spirit of God enfolds and keeps us trusting in Him

B. Vs. 11-16

***II* 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.**

- 1. "Things" = deep things, inner workings
- 2. An example: no one knows the inner workings of a person but the person him/herself
- 3. So it is with God - certainly no man knows the inner workings and counsels of God except God Himself

12 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.

4. While no one knows what goes on another, if they share them, then they do
5. God wants us to know Him, so He has revealed Himself
6. He does this by causing His Spirit to dwell within us
7. When the Spirit comes, He not only reveals God to us, He also reveals what God has done for us!

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

8. It was this revelation of God that Paul was proclaiming
 - a. Christ had called and sent Paul to make known the mysteries of God
 - b. the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to preach and teach the things of God

14 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.

9. The natural man is the person who is not born again
 - a. he lives only in the natural realm
 - b. the world of the sense is the only reality he knows
10. Because he lives solely in the natural realm, he cannot perceive the things of the Spirit - they seem like foolishness to him.
11. You see, the natural man is spiritually dead.
 - a. just as a corpse is insensitive to the natural realm
 - b. the natural man is insensitive to the spiritual realm because he is spiritually dead
12. Most of us have seen the truth of v. 14 firsthand . . .
 - a. ourselves and the gospel
 - b. ourselves and the Bible
 - c. others - trying to explain to them

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

13. "Judges" = better - discerns, understands
14. When he says, "he is rightly understood by no one" he means by the natural man
15. Again, the natural man looks at the Christian and scratches

- his head
16. The Christian lives by a different set of priorities

III. CONCLUSION

A. V. 16

**16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.**

1. Paul concludes with a final comparison of the natural and spiritual man
2. He does so by quoting Isa. 40:13 **"who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?"**
 - a. what mere mortal could presume to act as God's counselor?
 - b. yet many do
 - 1) they reject the God of the Bible because He doesn't fit the mold of what they think God ought to be or do
 - 2) "Why doesn't God . . . ?"
 - bring an end to world hunger
 - stop bad things happening to good people
 - bring world peace
3. While the natural man is clueless, the spiritual man is not
4. The Christian has the mind of Christ
5. That mind is conformed in us by the work of the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God.

B. Sailing Away

1. To draw an example from history to describe the difference between the natural and the spiritual man . . .
2. At one time, people believed the world was flat
 - a. sailors feared that if you sailed too far, you could fall off the edge
 - b. their maps and navigation was all based on this belief
 - c. in their mind, they lived on a flat, 2-dimensional earth
3. Then came along a few people who said, "No, the earth isn't flat, it's round."
 - a. they began to launch out into deeper waters in search of something more
 - b. they began to steer by new and different stars
 - c. they were roundly condemned and criticized
 - d. but they were right and opened up whole new realms for mankind
4. The natural man lives on a flat earth - there is nothing but

- the here and now
5. The Christian lives in a bigger reality - the realm of the spirit
 - a. we steer by a different star
 - b. we hear the jeers, taunts, and warnings of the flat earthers
 - c. but Christian - keep sailing
 - d. there's a whole new dimension to discover and live in - the realm of the Spirit