

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

Not with excellency of speech or of wisdom. Not with the eloquent arts of a Grecian orator or the speculations of a Greek philosopher; things highly esteemed at Corinth and among all the Greeks.

The People's New Testament Commentary – B.W. Johnson pg. 80

² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

See box below **1st Corinthians 1:21** (page 4)

³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

Acts 18:9-10 (NKJV) Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

⁴ And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV) God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV) Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in **the power of God**.

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God** to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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,

“WISDOM OF GOD” --- **Ephesians 3:3-7 & Colossians 1:26-29**

“ORDAINED BEFORE THE AGES” --- **Acts 2:23, Acts 4:27-28 & Galatians 4:4-5**

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."

The things which God has prepared for them that love him has frequently been quoted at funerals to say that no one has seen the blessings of heaven which God has prepared for his saints. This interpretation ignores the next verse, "But God revealed them unto us." The things prepared by God under discussion in this verse are the things made available to us through Jesus Christ, such as forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, redemption, sanctification, etc. What God has prepared for us through Jesus can only be learned through revelation.

1st Corinthians by Mike Willis (Truth Commentaries pg.63)

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

John 16:13-14 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

¹¹ 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Who is the "natural man"? This verse says he considers the things of God to be "foolishness." One needs to consider the context to identify who is meant. In 1:18 he is one who considers preaching of the cross to be foolishness. He is different from one who is "perfect, full-grown," that receives the word, 2:6. The spiritual versus carnal man is described in 3:1-3 and Rom. 8:5-8. The natural man in this context is one who relies on human reasoning. He refuses to be guided by the inspired revelation of God.

The reason the natural man "cannot know" the things of God is because human wisdom does not have the ability to know God, 1:21. Since he rejects God's wisdom, he reaches different conclusions from the man who discerns God's word in a spiritual manner, 3:1-3.

v.15-The spiritual man who recognizes scripture to be God's word, "judges all things." That is, he perceives and understands the truth because he accepts the revelation as from God and not as based on human reasoning. Yet he is not judged by man. That is, those who reject God's wisdom as foolishness will also consider believers to be foolish, but their judgments are worthless.

First Corinthians by Robert Harkrider pg. 19

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

Questions 1st Corinthians Chapter Two

1. What does Paul mean, "... did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom..."?

Questions 1st Corinthians Chapter Two

2. Which verse of this chapter can **Acts 18:9-10** be identified with?

3. What is God's power to convict and convert an individual?
 - a. Who will not benefit from the power of God?

4. Where does it state, ***"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory"*** and explain the phrases that are underlined.

5. How does Mike Willis define ***"The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."***?

6. How does Robert Harkrider explain verses 14-15?

7. What will **you** remember about chapter two?