

**Theme:** Man for all his knowledge and wisdom, refuses to honor God and does not know God – and with his darkened mind (on his own), can’t. But God has graciously provided a more glorious *revelation* of Himself and His way of redemption.

**Background/Introduction:** Last week – God’s self-revelation in nature – *Natural/General Revelation*. Revealing His divine nature & eternal power – but Rejected by fallen mankind. Our only hope? God’s *Special Revelation* in the Word of God, Living and Written

## I. The Wisdom of the Age

### A. Natural man’s wisdom

1. I don’t need God (Emphasis of Romans 1:18ff)
  - a. Judgment (Genesis 3)
    - Death, driven away, pain
  - b. Moral depravity - Enormous consequences
    - Seen from beginning to the end of the Bible
2. A corrupt (but intact) intellect
  - a. Great capabilities
    - Advancing knowledge of *things*
  - b. Great deficiencies (7,8)
    - No advance of the knowledge of God or self

### B. The modern mind (14)

1. Secular - Bend away from God
  - God/religion is pushed out of culture/society
2. Futile in their thinking (Romans 1:21)
  - a. Moral relativists
  - b. Radical pluralists
  - c. Pragmatists

NOTE: The “natural” mind is corrupted. (14) It will not, and cannot accept things of the Spirit.

## II. The Wisdom of God

### A. Special revelation

#### 1. Redemption in history

- God breaks into human history, coming into the world in the flesh

#### 2. Revelation in the Word - written, living, active (Hebrews 4:12)

a. Points us to the Redeemer (John 5:39; Luke 24:27)

b. Shows Him in this life – in ministry and work

c. Shows His continuing work in the world

#### 3. Holy Spirit's application of the work of Christ to the mind and heart (11-13)

### B. The foolishness of preaching (1-5)

- Power to transform natural man into spiritual man (1:18)

- Not world's wisdom – but God's power! (2:4,5)

### C. The ministry of the Spirit (10-12)

## III. The Mind of Christ

### A. Unknown/unavailable to the “natural” person (8)

### B. Given to the “spiritual” person

- To have the mind of Christ is to be alive spiritually

- It is the work of the Holy Spirit

### C. Internal testimony

- Made to see self in light of truth

### D. Putting it to the test

## IV. What Are You Thinking?

NOTE: Christianity can't just change the way I *act*? It must change the way I *think*!

1. The battle is in the church, not just in the world.

2. We must teach our children!

3. Bow to the Spirit of Christ to lead and teach you.

a. The power of the Word

b. The power and place of the church