

Last week we ended in (V5) in which we understood the Apostle Paul's ardent desire/determination to preach the gospel to the people at Corinth:

Paul, in his heart, was fixed upon what God had called him to do, and he was DETERMINED to do it to honor and glorify his God. He was determined to preach the gospel of the crucified Christ, KNOWING that it was God's message, and the ONLY true and genuine message of salvation.

THAT sinners in Corinth, and in every other place would turn from their sins to Christ in repentance and faith; and that they would believe the gospel of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins!

He knew, for THAT to happen, and for the Spirit of God to move upon the souls of lost sinners, his message must be the message of the crucified Christ, which is to this day the message of the Spirit of God!

And my speech and my preaching was NOT with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: THAT your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (V4-5):

If there was going to be a demonstration (or manifestation of God) in Paul's preaching; if true and saving faith was going to be given to sinners, his message MUST BE, the gospel of Christ! Paul was DETERMINED that their faith would be founded upon, and standing upon nothing else but Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

This should be every preacher's determination EVERY-TIME he enters the pulpit to preach the Word of God!

That your faith should NOT stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

YOU, Corinthians, highly esteem human wisdom, but we, the apostles of Christ don't preach and teach human wisdom; we preach the wisdom of God which in a mystery to you. (V6-8):

And it will continue to be hidden from you unless the Spirit of God reveals it to you! Understand that the wisdom of God, (or the gospel of Christ) cannot be discovered and understood by human wisdom and reason. You cannot reach it or understand it with your natural mind!

If you would know the One True God, you must abandon and forsake your own wisdom and thinking and trust/believe message of Christ! THAT is the great secret to understanding the gospel! You must hear the Word of God if you would believe the gospel of God, which is the wisdom of God!

Paul continued: We preach and teach (the gospel) which is the wisdom of God among the perfect. Who are the perfect?

Those to whom God has revealed Himself in the gospel message; who understand and believe/trust the message of God, which is the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

The princes of this world would not hear Christ and His message because they were filled with their own wisdom: (1 Corinthians 2:6

Read again ~ (V7-8):

Who were the princes of this world, spoken of here by Paul? The religious leaders, the chief priests, scribes, and pharisees in the days of Christ, who refused Him and rejected His message! Acts 13:26-30, 38-41
They would not hear His Word; so, God blinded their minds to the truth of His Word. And so, they disqualified themselves for God's salvation that was sent to them; they rejected their Messiah and Saviour; therefore, they were rejected of God! They didn't KNOW Christ, because they didn't want to know Christ! Don't be like these rejectors; hear the Word of God! Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God! 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 1:7-9, Colossians 1:26-27

There are doubts by commentators as to whether Paul was citing Isaiah 64:4: For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him: (V9-10):

Personally, I believe Paul meant to quote this passage in Isaiah as it applied to what he was teaching the Corinthians. Our natural eyes and ears are not capable of seeing/hearing/perceiving THE THINGS of God; defined as THE THINGS that He has prepared for them that love Him.

With our natural minds and in the wisdom of our own hearts we are NOT CAPABLE of taking hold of and understanding the things of God! 1 Corinthians 2:14

What are the THINGS is Paul speaking of? What are the THINGS, which God hath PREPARED for them that love Him!

I believe Paul is speaking of the TRUTHS/WISDOM of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The revelation of the salvation which God prepared from the foundation of the world for those that love Him! But these Truths and this Wisdom is undiscoverable to the natural mind!

If we would know these truths, this hidden wisdom, and the mysteries of God in the gospel, they MUST be revealed to us by the Spirit of God!

Matthew 13:9-17

But God hath revealed them (these things ~ the wisdom of God in the gospel) unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (V10): and John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:7-14

See here the necessity of the ministry of the Spirit of God in REVEALING the truth of the gospel to us! The Spirit of God is the ONLY One qualified and able to do this! Apart from the Holy Spirit, none of us would be able to grasp or understand the things of God!

Paul was given this calling, this stewardship, to preach the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles; the gospel is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit to uncover that which is hidden to the natural mind.

Psalms 119:105, 130, Proverbs 6:23, Ephesians 3:1-11

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (V11)

Apart from God, who can know and reveal your thoughts at this very moment beside you? Can anyone stand before you and look into your eyes and tell you what you are thinking? NO! You are the only one who knows the secret thoughts and intentions of your heart.

Paul uses this analogy to prove that no one can know the secrets thoughts and intentions of God but God Himself! Here: The 3rd Person of the Godhead.

It is impossible for you to know the thoughts and intentions of your neighbor's heart, who is next to you unless they reveal their thoughts to you. And so, it is impossible to know (or to comprehend) the thoughts and mind of God; in the things of God and the truths of God, except God reveal them to you.

If the Spirit of God does not reveal them, (the truths of the gospel) they remain hidden and a mystery to the natural mind. So, understand that the key to uncovering the mysteries of God is to hear and obey the Word of God. The Word of God is the instrument and source of illumination that the Spirit of God uses to uncover that which is hidden.

READ: You don't know anything about the things that are freely given to you by God by your own natural wisdom; but by the wisdom of God and by the revelation of the Spirit of God!

THINGS FREELY GIVEN to every believer in Christ: Forgiveness for your sins according to the riches of God's grace; God made Him (Christ) to be sin for you Christian, who knew no sin, that you might be made righteous in the sight of God! This is the imputation of Christ's righteousness to you!

*You see why Paul was DETERMINED to preach the cross!
Because THAT is WHERE our salvation was secured!*

In Christ, you are born again into the Kingdom of Christ; you are adopted into the family of God! You have a heavenly inheritance that you will never lose: 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 John 3:1-3

ALL of these things Christian, are FREELY GIVEN to you by God!

If you possess the Spirit of God; if the Spirit of God is in you, you KNOW the things that are freely given to you by God.

(V13-14):

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

