



THE CHURCH THE WORLD NEEDS | THE WAY OF WISDOM (5)

October 10, 2021

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

PURPOSE

To discover and experience Jesus Christ in our midst
To cultivate mutually encouraging relationships
To participate in God's mission to the world

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

10 MIN

Share one "high" and one "low" from the previous week.

WORSHIP

10 MIN

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we long to know you better. As we make our way in this world, we search for signs that you are with us. Give us a glimpse of your glorious presence, and show us your ways. May our lives ring out the marvelous message of your goodness, your mercy, and your love. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER—Psalm 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD! How long?**

Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.**

¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷**Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!**

SCRIPTURE READING

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—*

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

BIBLE STUDY

40 MIN

Summary and Connection

In v.6-13, Paul continues to contrast the two kinds of wisdom available to the Corinthians: The *wisdom of the world* that seeks to operate by means of human achievements and longs for power and control and the *wisdom of God*, which Paul begins to unpack in this passage and is not a human achievement, but a gift from the Spirit that draws us more deeply into the life of God.



1. Looking at the Bible

What does the text say?

- Read the text twice. Each time listen carefully and notice what grabs your attention.
- In your reading and hearing of this passage, does it remind you of any other part of Scripture?
- Paul bookends this passage with the terms “mature” and “spiritual”. What do you think he means by those terms?
- What do you think the difference is between wisdom and knowledge/information?



2. Looking at Jesus

Paul has spent much of his time in the beginning of this letter discussing the wisdom of the cross. In v.8, he says the rulers of this age do not understand the secret and hidden wisdom of God because if they had they would not have **crucified the Lord of glory**. Paul suggests that the rulers of the age didn't have the wisdom to see Jesus.

- As we seek to grow in wisdom, what are ways that we can learn to see Jesus?
- How does God make the secret and hidden wisdom known to us?



3. Looking at our Hearts

In v.9 Paul is likely quoting Isaiah and telling the Corinthians basically you can't imagine what God has prepared for you. Paul wants them with great joy to see that God by his Spirit is revealing himself to us.

- What are the ways that God reveals himself to us as Paul indicates in v.10?
- Why is it that oftentimes our hearts are not stirred to awe and wonder at the promise of God's revealing Spirit?



4. Looking at our World

What are we to hope for?

- Paul takes great hope that the wisdom he imparts on the Corinthians is not human wisdom but wisdom taught by the Spirit.
 - » Given the division and mess that the church in Corinth is in, how might God's work of the Spirit give Paul hope?
 - » Paul here talks about spiritual people and the Holy Spirit. What criteria should be used when applying the word "spiritual" to people or events?

SHARING 15 MIN

Share your prayer requests, thoughts, hopes and fears for the coming week, and as you do consider how this passage might give light to what you are sharing.

KINGDOM PRAYER 15 MIN

Pray that we would see ourselves called by God.
Include other prayer requests.

SENDING 5 MIN

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you, and Christ in glory greet you, now and at the day of his coming.