

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #8, Chapter 2:6-16

Review chapter 2 before you start this lesson. Come to the Lord expecting Him to teach you through His Word.

1. As he did in chapter 1 Paul continues to contrast human wisdom versus God's wisdom in this chapter. Verse 6 begins with *yet* or *however*, which tells us he is introducing some new information. What contrast is being made about *wisdom* in verses 4-6?

2. Paul says he speaks wisdom among those who are *mature* [Strong's #5046]. What does that word mean? Note how Paul uses the same word (also translated *complete* or *perfect*) other places in his epistles: 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; 4:12.

3. The writer of Hebrews found himself in a similar situation in Heb. 5:11-15 and Heb. 6:1-2. Explain his thinking about the differences in teaching babes in Christ and those who are more spiritually mature.
 - a. How did the Apostle John describe the need for different levels of teaching in 1 Jn. 2:12-14?

 - b. What do you learn about growth in spiritual maturity from 1 Cor. 3:1-3 and 1 Pet. 2:2?

- c. How do all the passages you've just looked at provide insight into Paul's statement about speaking wisdom to the mature?

4. What do you learn about the hidden wisdom of God from verses 6-9?

5. Who is God's wisdom *hidden* from?

6. What is God's intended purpose for His wisdom (verse 9)?

7. What is the wisdom message that God desires us to know and understand?
See Rom.16:25-27; 1 Cor. 2:8-9; Eph. 3:4-11; Col. 1:25-27; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.

8. Verse 10 indicates the Holy Spirit revealed something. What was it according to verse 10 and verses 6-9?

9. What dilemma is presented in verse 11?

10. What solution is given in verse 12?

What a joy it is to sit before the pages of the Bible and let the Spirit reveal God's truth. The trouble is, many Christians are too busy for this kind of quiet meditation. What enrichment they are missing!

The Holy Spirit is like a householder who "bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" (Matt. 13:52). The new always comes out of the old and helps us better understand the old. God gives us new insights into old truths as we compare one part of Scripture with another. Jesus based His teaching on the Old Testament, yet people were amazed at what He taught because it was so fresh and exciting.

I suggest that you make time every day to read the Word and meditate on it. Follow a regular schedule in your reading and give yourself time to pray, think, and meditate. Let the Spirit of God search the Word and teach you. The study and application of basic Bible doctrine can transform your life. ~ Warren Wiersbe¹

11. What are *some* things that have been freely given to us by God? See Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:6; Phil. 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:17; James 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:3.
12. Verse 12 tells us that God gave us His Holy Spirit so we would know what God has given to us. What are some other things the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit aiding and teaching believers? See Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; 6:18-19; Eph. 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:24 for a sampling of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of believers.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, ILL.: Victor Books, 1996), 1 Cor. 2:10.

13. How does Paul explain how the Holy Spirit aids him in preaching according to verse 13?

14. Verse 13 isn't telling anything new or different than what Paul has already penned in verses 6-13. The psalmist speaks about this same insight when he proclaimed, "I have more insight than all my teachers...[and] I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts (Ps. 119:99-100)." Paul goes on to explain why that kind of wisdom is possible in verse 14. What do you learn?

15. What do you learn about the *natural* man, also known as an unbeliever in verse 14?
 - a. Now look up Rom. 8:5-8; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 Jn. 4:5. What else do you learn about an unbeliever's spiritual state?

16. What insight does that give you about the differences between an unbeliever and a believer when it comes to understanding spiritual truths?

17. Define *appraised* (ESV, NKJV, NIV *discerned, judges* [Strong's #350]) as used in verses 14-15.

24. How were those truths an encouragement to Paul? How can they encourage you each day?

Come, Divine Interpreter
by Charles Wesley

Come, divine interpreter,
Bring me eyes Thy book to read,
Ears the mystic words to hear,
Words which did from Thee proceed,
Words that endless bliss impart,
Kept in an obedient heart.

All who read, or hear, are blessed,
If Thy plain commands we do;
Of Thy kingdom here possessed,
Thee we shall in glory view
When Thou comest on earth to abide,
Reign triumphant at Thy side.
