

- 1) How many of you have ever watched the game show Jeopardy?
 - Hugely Popular
 - The show pits three people against each other and they answer some of the most obscure questions known to man.
 - Questions like “Thomas Jefferson’s dogs second batch of puppies bore this famous bird dog”.
 - I used to think that this was the most amazing display of knowledge I have ever seen and how do these people know this stuff?
 - I was impressed by them and their intelligence until I read an article written by a person who actually was on the show. In it He explained how they as contestants were given the topic for the next show and were asked to read all the information and then retain what they read. Once the show was aired **each had been given the same knowledge** as the others and really it was a test of reading comprehension and retention rather than a test of a persons existing knowledge.
 - According to this contestant, the lights are dimmed as the host reads the question. Once complete the lights are brought back up and then the contestants are allowed to ring in their buzzer. Ring too soon and you are locked out. Ring too late and you’ve missed your opportunity. If you are successful in ringing in you then must answer the question properly.
 - The comment that he ended with (He lost miserably by the way) is that knowledge is not enough. You need to know when and how to ring the buzzer in order to be able to have an opportunity to speak what you know. **In other words; You need to have wisdom about how the game is played in order for the knowledge you have to be useful.**

Please turn in your bibles or devices to 1 Corinthians chapter 2:

First Corinthians was written while Paul was in Ephesus on his missionary journey and it was initiated by a report that Paul had received from the House of Cloe regarding the believers in Corinth. It was at least three years after he had visited the city of Corinth, either while on his second missionary journey or at the beginning of His third. We know this by the fact that in His letter he expressed that he was nearing the end of his time in Ephesus at which He preached to the Ephesians for almost three years

In order to understand what Paul was addressing we need to step back a bit and look at Chapter #1 vs 10-12

- There was division in the church
- There was infighting about who they should follow
- It must be noted that the Corinthian culture was corrupt, very immoral and relied heavily on human philosophy and intelligence. The issue was that when some became believers in Christ, they dragged humanist teaching into the church and it began to infiltrate the very fiber of the church in Corinth
- Something had gone wrong with their understanding of the Christian message. They all had begun with the same knowledge but over time, the lines of truth were blurred by outside influences and beliefs. Something was lost with the foundation of Paul's teachings and the fact of the truth of that knowledge. **They attributed their faith and strength with the deliverer of the gospel and not with the wisdom and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They saw people as wise and humanly knowledgeable without fully grasping the implications of the saving grace of Jesus.**

So now we come to Chapter two:

The transfer of knowledge:

Vs 1-5

- Paul was aware of the truth and he was convinced of the importance and the practicality of the gospel message.
- His desire was to pass on the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the gospel
- Paul starts by referring to his original time with the people of Corinth and how he approached them when he first arrived.
- It was not about Him- He did not want to cloud the message with human wisdom or lofty words. He wanted to deflect away from himself.
- Came with weakness and fear (VS3)
 - Prior to coming to Corinth Paul was beaten and imprisoned in Philippi, run out of Thessalonica and Berea and scoffed in Athens so he was physically weakened by the time he had gotten there.
 - But Paul was not **afraid** of the Corinthians rather his fear and trembling came from his understanding of his responsibility in preaching the word of God
 - Paul Understood the significance of what he was about to say.
 - He knew that his passion for the word and the importance of it to the people so that they would believe the entirety of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and only the Gospel.
- How he said something was irrelevant compared to what he said.
- **Read Vs 5- The strength of their faith must rest on the power of God and not on the wisdom of man**

So at the end of his time with the Corinthians; Paul was convinced that he had successfully passed on the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ

There are a lot of people with a tremendous amount of knowledge about the word of God. There is a lot of people with a tremendous amount of knowledge about the things of this world. The question that needs to be addressed is how are they applying their knowledge. What is the basis of their understanding and what are their motives when applying knowledge.

Did you know that there were 100 million bibles sold worldwide in 2014? Knowing that this trend is normal for bible sales and considering the vast number of Bibles that have entered the world in the past few years, one would think that the values and state of our world would be much better than it currently is. Why is it not?

I believe that Paul answers that question in the remaining verses of Chapter 2

Read the Definition of Knowledge and Wisdom

Paul writes about primarily about wisdom. There are three main areas that he addresses.

- 1) The wisdom of Man/world
- 2) The Wisdom of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit.
- 3) The response of the believers and possessors of the Wisdom of God.

Throughout this passage Paul's reference about wisdom uses the Greek word Sophia:

- Sophia on the other hand refers to insight into the true nature of something. Sophia is more theoretical, not something that you can physically grasp or know. Thayer's definition states that it is something that belongs to God. Therefore it is imparted rather than learned.

Wisdom of man:

Read vs 6-9

- Vs 6-9 speaks to the fact that we speak a wisdom that is understood by those who are mature:
 - i. Maturity in faith; genuine believers
 - ii. not a question of age necessarily or spiritual experience

iii. the mature are those who received the holy spirit and therefore understand

And yet none of the rulers of the age understood it. They were the educated ones, the ones that people looked to for guidance and knowledge. Paul was essentially saying that they were like the blind leading the blind.

1. By inference we can conclude that they were not believers. That is obvious.
2. If they had understood who Christ was they would not have done what they did.

- The question is why did they not understand:
 - Rulers refer to Pharisees, Saducees, Teachers of the law, Herod, Soldiers, anyone who was in a position of authority.
 - They saw the miracles and the very physical presence of Jesus Christ. It is not that their eyes were closed. They physically heard and saw what was happening. They heard the stories, saw the signs and yet still never understood.
 - They possessed the knowledge of what he had done but did not see the Wisdom contained within it.
 - They heard the stories and teaching of Jesus but it never mattered to them. Why?
 - I submit to you that **It's not their fault that they didn't understand. It was their choice!!**

I say this because:

1Peter 3:5-

2Cor:4:4-

John 11:47-48:

These men chose to not understand either by refusing to believe in the living God or consciously subverting Him for their own personal gain.

Paul concludes his indictment of the leaders by quoting Isaiah 64:4.

I would like to share what well known bible teacher John MacArthur concludes here:

Quote:

When I was younger I can remember learning that this verse referred to heaven. Remember that? "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard the glow of heaven,". This doesn't have the remotest relationship to heaven primarily. Do you find anything in this context about heaven? Is he talking about heaven here? No, He's talking about ignorance isn't he? He's not talking about Christians not being able to know what heaven's like. He's talking about unbelievers not being able to know what salvation is like. That's his whole point. Watch it. Now he says, "It is written eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of

man the things which God has prepared for them to love Him." Now God from the ages past prepared some fantastic things for the people that love Him. But the people that don't love Him can't know what those things are. You see the world with all of it's quest for truth can't figure out what's going on.
End Quote

2) The Wisdom of God (revelation)

Vs 10-12:

A while ago Ruth and I were discussing something; she made a particular comment which was **supposed** to be: "I'll believe that when I see it". I am guessing it had something to do with me committing to picking up my socks after me.

Although that's what she meant to say the words she spoke were actually: "I'll see that when I believe it". (Repeat)

That is the basic message of the next few versus.

Vs: 10

- God has revealed it to us: You and me: us
- What he has revealed are those things that "no one has ever seen, heard or even conceived of.

why am I focusing on this truth?

Vs. 11- You know what is going on inside yourself. I can't know how your spiritual walk is., How your thought life is. What you bible reading time or prayer time looks like. But you do!! And until you tell me what is happening in your life it will remain a secret to me.

In the same way I didn't understand the heart of God's until I understood the Holy Spirit.

But....But; Here is the beautiful part.

Vs 12-

God has **revealed** it to us; We have **received** one of the greatest of gifts of all; God has **given** his Holy Spirit to us.

Why

So we can understand the things that he has freely given us:
So what are those things?

- 1) The ability to understand his Word and
- 2) Luke 8-9&10. Christ is talking to his disciples:

There it is again. "Seeing they do not see; hearing they do not understand."

But WE have received the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God.

- If you want to know what God's will is for your life: you have the connection: read God's word and pray
- If you want to know whether to buy that new house or car: You have the connection: read God's word and pray
- If you want to guide your children and raise them in the ways of the Lord: You have the connection: read God's word and pray
- If you want to experience a joy that passes all understanding: you have the connection; read God's word and pray

Bill Hall :He related this story about a time when he was working as an English as a second language teacher in Russia. The system had no issues with Bill using the Bible as a piece of literature but he was not allowed to evangelize the young during official classes.

- *The last few days before he was finished his tenure he decided to use the book of Mark as a literary study.*
- *The first few chapters of Mark 1-10 is a study in the life of Christ*
- *As they continued the second day of reading aloud the account of Jesus there was a noticeable shift in how they were reading.*
- *According to Bill by the time they reached the final few chapters many were unable to read because they were weeping.*

- *These young Russian adults were reading, perhaps for the first time, the story of Jesus Christ.*
- *They were gathering information and knowledge*
- *Bill did not have to tell them the truth about what they were reading. They just got it! They were overwhelmed. They were weeping.*
- *How did they get it? Well, there is only 1 way!!*

The truth will be spiritually discerned. The deep things of God are spiritually discerned. We have been given the spirit from God to understand and know the knowledge that God has given us in his Word.

Psalm 25:14 states:

"the Lord confides in those who fear Him
he makes his covenant known to them

So what should The response of believers be:

Paul ends the chapter this way:

Read 13-16

First thing we must do is to impart; What good is this knowledge and wisdom if we don't tell others. As we grow in maturity and understand the deeper things of God we can certainly answer some of the world issues. We are to be like voices crying in the wilderness- Making straight the paths of the Lord: Isaiah 40:3

Paul is saying that the person who is guided by the Holy Spirit draws discerning conclusions about all things spiritual. He is not subject to questioning of his discernment by any man.

- This does not indicate that we are without culpability when making spiritual judgements. Paul's letter is making the clear distinction between believers and non believers
- Paul's reference to any man is in essence any man that does not possess the spirit of God. Let's be cautious here about judging. This letter was written to the church in Corinth addressing issues within the church. Paul is being explicit in judging those who are within that group.
- There are numerous teachings about being responsible and our actions judged by fellow believers
- 1Cor 5: 9-11,

The last verse is clear: we as believers **have a common mind** when dealing with the spiritual truths. Not should have or try to have or work towards getting it; we have!! Unity comes from a common understanding and goal. It is a natural outcome of our faith and trust in the savior. This is important because:

I believe that we are into the double jeopardy round in our world today. The stakes are higher than ever before and we can nil afford to make an error in interpreting and applying our knowledge.

Scientists state that never in the history of mankind have we had so much accumulated knowledge.

And I submit that never in the history of mankind have we shown such little wisdom.

Paul is clear that the Holy Spirit brings wisdom to the believer. We are able to discern what God's word states but we are so afraid of what the world may think of us. We hesitate to get involved for fear of judgement and condemnation.

We must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in making decisions, judging character, speaking the word to non believers, fellowship with one another, and discerning the truth of our world today.

- There are lots of things that will capture your attention.
- There are lots of men claiming to know the way to happiness
- There are lots of men claiming to speak the word of God and churches that claim to have the latest and greatest thing in spirituality
- We know when things are right and when they are wrong. And God's word is explicit when dealing with many of the issues that we are faced with in today's world. The Church needs to be more discerning and wise.

Knowledge and wisdom are not mutually exclusive. You cannot have one without the other. We cannot depend on our feelings to interpret scripture. We cannot depend on someone else or the world to interpret scripture for us.

We **MUST** rely on the Holy Spirit to bring us to a consistent and accurate understanding of the Word of God.

One last verse that I want you to read along with me please.

Acts 17: 11

We have the Holy Spirit within us. We have the word of God in our hands. I encourage each of you to use what you already have in discerning the truth in such a crazy world.

Don't take my word for it. Be like the Bereans and check it out for yourselves

Lets pray:

Father, we thank you for your word. Thank you that we have the opportunity to even begin to understand your thoughts and to comprehend what you have given to us. May we always rejoice in the gift of your holy spirit and be discerning in all that we do. As we seek guidance in our daily lives may it be with diligence as we seek first your word then be lead by your spirit as we step forward, knowing that we are in your will. I pray Lord that as we go through our week may our focus continually be on the cross and may we be as Paul, "resolving to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified"

In the precious name of Jesus
Amen