



Cruisin' Through Corinthians

1 Corinthians 2

INTRODUCTION:

- The Jewish people sought miraculous signs, and the Gentiles of Paul's day sought out wisdom. What does our modern American culture seek / highly prize and why?
- What effects do the obsessions of our culture have upon God's people in the church?
- *Agree / Disagree: Paul confronted the worldly influences in his churches head on. Modern pastors don't have the courage to do that and instead they embrace the obsessions of the culture around them.*
 - If you agree at all, can you think of some examples?

Nothing but Christ Crucified:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. **2** For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness, in fear, and with much trembling. **4** My message and my preaching were not marked by persuasive words of human wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

- What would be the equivalent of the "polished speaker" they prized so highly in our modern culture?
- Describe Paul's sermons:
 - Do you think he was being self effacing here, that he really was a much better preacher than he thought he was?
- Prove that Paul could indeed make a logical and airtight case for something:
- Explain what Paul says in verse 3 and what it might have looked like:
- What exactly was the "demonstration of the Spirit and of power"?
- *Agree / Disagree: You don't need to be a great preacher to be a great pastor.*

True Wisdom:

1 Corinthians 2:6-11

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. 7 Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.) 9 But as it is written:

**What no eye has seen and no ear has heard
and no human mind has conceived—
that is what God has prepared for those who love him.**

10 But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 Indeed, who among men knows a man's thoughts except the man's spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit.

- Who are the “mature” who recognize God's true wisdom?

- Jesus said we must have the faith of a _____.

- Why is God's wisdom kept secret and “hidden in mystery” (v.7) - doesn't He want all the world to know it?

- Pilate himself said in despair “*What is _____*”

- Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. What might he have done if he knew about God's wisdom at that point?

- Agree / Disagree: *Unbelievers can discover bits and pieces of God's wisdom by using their logic, their consciences, and looking at what works.*

- Put God's wisdom in 2 words: _____

- Paul quotes from Isaiah 64:4 in verse 9. What point is he driving home by using this quote?

- Lutherans have been accused of having a “paper pope” by putting such a high value on God's written word. What does the Apostle Paul have to say about it?

- Others claim that the Bible is “yesterday's news” and we need modern revelation of the Spirit for our modern times. Who says that and how do you respond to that?

- Think of some Bible passages that tell us the Word of God (and the Word of God alone) is ALL we need and all we'll ever need when it comes to God's wisdom for our lives and our salvation:

- What insight does verse 11 give us regarding the mystery of the Trinity?

- Agree / Disagree: *Those outside of Christ have nothing at all to offer those of us who have the Word of God.*

The Mind of Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

12 What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God. **13** We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words. **14** However, an unspiritual person does not accept the truths taught by God's Spirit, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually evaluated. **15** But the spiritual person evaluates all things, and he himself is evaluated by no one. **16** Indeed, "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who will instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- Where does the "spirit of the world" ultimately come from?

- Describe what it looks like today:

- What is Paul describing in verse 13?

- Agree / Disagree: *Baptist theology disagrees with verse 14.*

- If you agree, then prove it:

- Explain what verse 15 looks like in practical terms:

- Agree / Disagree: *Verse 16 is a paradox.*

- What point is Paul making here? Boil it down:

- Agree / Disagree: *The Bible is an incredible miracle that we get to hold in our hands.*

CONCLUSION:

- Agree / Disagree: *We place way to high a price tag on the "wisdom of the world" and not nearly a high enough price tag on Worship and Bible study.*
- What practical wisdom does this chapter have for us as we live out our Christian lives?

CLOSING PRAYER: