



True Wisdom

Introduction:

In last week's text, Paul explained to the Corinthian church that most of them were still immature in their faith, which meant he had to use simple language to teach them about the gospel. In the text we look at today, we see that this was not always the case, because Paul was able to impart God's wisdom to those who were more mature in the faith.

God's wisdom was and is only ever *revealed* in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Scripture Text

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Sermon Points

#1. True wisdom is secret and hidden

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-7

Paul was not saying that human wisdom is sinful, but rather that it is insufficient, and does not and cannot lead to true wisdom. Its capacity is limited, and always will be. Since early on, humanity has desired to know more and has been on a pursuit to acquire greater knowledge and wisdom, which would hopefully answer all the questions to life. Our continued search for wisdom is ultimately a search for meaning and purpose, and it will never deliver the very thing we are looking for. God's wisdom is purposely hidden from humanity, and is inaccessible to our minds. We simply cannot know all there is about God and how he works, because he is God and we are not. He is creator, and we are his created.

But God did reveal, in real time, the greatest of all human mysteries that had been hidden from humankind throughout the ages. He revealed his plan for the redemption of humanity (from the bondage of sin and death), through the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of his son Jesus Christ. This was, and is, the ultimate wisdom of God. Yet, for those who seek truth, wisdom and knowledge within the limits of humanity's capacity, they will forever be unable to see, understand or embrace this reality. To them, the message of the cross is foolishness, and yet this very blindness to the truth is what separates them from their own redemption.

- ♠ Why will our human wisdom never get us to a place of understanding or embracing the gospel?
- ♠ How does this reality impact your thinking on evangelism (reaching out to the lost with the gospel)?
- ♠ How does it make you feel knowing that we will never, in our lifetime, know everything about God, or how he works and why he does what he does?
- ♠ Why is the wisdom of God seen as foolishness to those who are extremely wise in the eyes of the world?



#2. True wisdom is revealed in Christ

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:7-9, Colossians 1:24-28 & Ephesians 1:7-10

Paul confirms again and again in the scriptures that God's wisdom is revealed in Christ – his life, death and resurrection. Had the worldly-wise known that Jesus was God incarnate, they never would have killed him, and yet they did. Their limited human wisdom led them to kill the very one they were waiting for.

To those who are being saved, the cross of Christ is the pinnacle of God's wisdom, and the fulfillment of his plan to redeem humanity. The cross is God's ultimate display of his love for us as his people. The cross was for our glory. We cannot see and believe in the power of cross by trying to figure it out through human reasoning, God himself has to reveal it to us. We are totally incapable of believing the gospel without him revealing it to us.

#3. True wisdom is revealed through the Spirit

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 & John 16:7

The way God reveals Christ to us is through the Holy Spirit. He is the one who opens our eyes to see, and our ears to hear and understand. As one of the three members of the trinity, the Holy Spirit is a person, not just a force. His work in the salvation of humanity is just as crucial as the work of the Father and of the Son. The Father made provision for salvation and sent the Son. The Son gave up his life, in obedience to the Father, to die as the atoning sacrifice for sin, and the Holy Spirit is the one who reveals the risen Christ to us. They all work together to bring about our salvation. The Holy Spirit searches and reveals the things of God, and continues that journey from our transition across the line of faith, through our infancy and all the way to maturity.

- ♣ Why is it so ironic that it was the wise, powerful and religious, who had Christ put to death?
- ♣ Why does this help us to understand how human wisdom is insufficient to see the truth of the gospel and believe?
- ♣ If it is not our human reasoning that brings us to the knowledge of God, how does it happen?
- ♣ Why is the Holy Spirit's role in salvation as crucial as the role of the Father and the Son?
- ♣ Why do you think the Holy Spirit's role in our lives, as we mature, is just as important as his role in bringing us across the line of faith in the first place?

#4. True wisdom lies in humble certainty

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

It is important to understand the difference between true wisdom and the world's wisdom, which falls far short. The world's wisdom helps us to make decent decisions and live as successfully as possible, within the limited capacity it can provide. Believers do not have the ability or permission to abandon common sense and wise-living in terms of how to be successful, kind, generous and mature in life. Paul is not suggesting that we abandon all human logic and live by a totally spiritual mindset (as though the world does not matter), which has no bearing in real life. No. His point is completely different. When he refers to wisdom here, he is talking about God's wisdom, which is found only in Christ.



Since God's wisdom in Christ is revealed to us by the Spirit alone, we are not going to be understood by the world, because they cannot see what we have been shown. It will appear to them as absolute nonsense, and they will criticize our belief. We have to understand that we see only because the Spirit has revealed Christ to us, and therefore we cannot boast about it. This realization should immediately humble us, because we have done absolutely nothing to gain our spiritual site. It is a gift.

In fact, as this reality dawns on us more and more, it continues to humble us, because we progressively see ourselves in light of the gospel, and realise that even our greatest wisdom and success in life, is not actually that impressive. Our egos settle into a healthy, God-dependent position, and our posture in life towards ourselves and others changes. We start we realise the weight of our new identity that has been secured for us in Christ, which far outweighs any other identity we ever could have found or achieved on our own. It births in us true humility, and over time, as the depths of the riches of God in Christ is progressively revealed, it only deepens. Therefore, it stands to reason that Christian maturity is best displayed in the continuing levels of humility and God-dependency.

- ♣ Why is it, that when Christ is revealed and we finally see spiritually, that our sense of self changes?
- ♣ Why is it impossible to be proud of and reliant on our own wisdom, and at the same time be a very mature Christian?
- ♣ Share with the group how your ego, as well as your perspective of yourself, has changed as Christ has been revealed to you more and more throughout your faith journey.

Take home: What is the one big take-away that God is asking you to take to heart and implement this week?