

Message #9

I Corinthians 2:6-13

As difficult as it may seem to grasp, some in Corinth could not figure out why Paul kept preaching the Bible. Paul's emphasis on preaching and teaching was NOT understood by many in the church. You expect those who are lost to question Biblical exposition, but you don't expect those who are saved to question it.

THE WISDOM OF PREACHING AND TEACHING THE BIBLE WILL BE ONLY UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE WHO ARE MATURING IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

Those who DO NOT recognize the importance of Biblical instruction and teaching ARE NOT in tune with the Spirit of God. They are either lost (2:14) or they are a babe (3:1), or they are carnal (3:1), but they ARE NOT spiritual (3:1).

**SPIRITUAL REALITY #1 – Biblical preaching and teaching is only wise to the mature.
2:6a**

The word "mature" is one that refers to one who is complete, one who is full grown, one who is a spiritual adult.

Paul's opening point is the only type of person who will recognize the importance of proclaiming the Word of God is one who is spiritually mature. Those who aren't mature, who aren't complete, who aren't full grown don't understand the wisdom of expounding the Bible.

In a very real sense, we can spiritually evaluate ourselves by how we view Biblical exposition. Those who are mature see the importance of it and those who aren't, don't.

**SPIRITUAL REALITY #2 – Biblical preaching and teaching is not wise to this world.
2:6a**

Just look at this world's system and we will see how insignificant Biblical preaching has become: 1) In most churches Biblical preaching has been replaced by political and social causes; 2) In most schools Biblical instruction is forbidden; 3) In most theological institutions Biblical instruction is being replaced by a focus on psychology, sociology or economics.

This world will tell you it does not need more systematic preaching of God's Word. This world will not tell you this because this world IS NOT right with God and those who don't see the significance of Biblical instruction aren't right with Him either.

**SPIRITUAL REALITY #3 – Biblical preaching and teaching is hidden to this world.
2:7-8**

Here is a very true, sober and fearful reality—the reason why most people DO NOT understand the importance of preaching is because of God's sovereignty.

God has “predestined,” that is He has “set-the-boundaries-beforehand” who will understand the importance of the Bible and who won’t. He has sovereignly “hidden” the teachings of the Bible from many people so that these teachings are a mystery. **Verse 8** gives the greatest proof that God does sovereignly conceal and hide truth from people—the crucifixion of His own Son. God actually concealed the truth of His own Son from people in the world so they would crucify Him.

God specifically states that had He NOT blinded their minds they WOULD NOT have crucified the Lord of Glory. Christ’s death was no mistake; it was God-ordained (i.e. Acts 4:26-28).

Ladies and gentlemen, if you understand the significance of the Bible and Biblical instruction, God is sovereignly allowing you to understand. If you don’t understand the significance of it, God has not allowed you to understand, which means you are either lost or carnal.

SPIRITUAL REALITY #4 – Biblical preaching and teaching IS NOT discovered by this world. **2:9**

Paul wanted the Corinthians to realize that one cannot humanly understand the Bible. It doesn’t work that way; in fact, he cites a principle of Is. 64:4 to make three important points:

Point #1 - You cannot gain Biblical wisdom by your own eyes. **2:9a**

Point #2 - You cannot gain Biblical wisdom by your own ears. **2:9b**

Point #3 - You cannot gain Biblical wisdom by your own heart. **2:9c**

Paul’s point is that it is absolutely impossible for man to come to terms with God on his own. No man, by his own eyes, ears or heart will ever come to a mature level of understanding in the things that God wants those who love Him to know. We will ONLY advance in our spiritual life IF God permits it (Heb. 6:1-3).

SPIRITUAL REALITY #5 – Biblical preaching and teaching IS revealed by God’s Spirit. **2:10-13**

The ONLY Being capable of bringing a person into a deep relationship with God is the Spirit of God. The more we hear of the Word of God and the more we yield to the Spirit of God, the more mature we will be allowed to become.

Fact #1 - A person’s spiritual depth level is developed by God’s Spirit. **2:10-11**

When the text says, “the Spirit searches all things,” it means that the Spirit of God analyzes both the person and his spiritual condition in connection with the truth of God and allows that person to progress in accordance with his true spiritual condition.

Fact #2 - A person's spiritual depth level is developed by spiritual teaching. **2:12-13**

It is the Spirit of God who is in us and who works in our lives to give us knowledge of the deep things of God (**2:12**).

In fact, it is His desire that we know the deep things of God. This knowledge is gained as one listens to and learns Biblical instruction and teaching, which is precisely what Paul's ministry was all about (**2:13**).

We learn something about how the spirit does this work, He "combines spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." The word "combine" is one that means to compare, to compound, to interpret. The participle is present tense meaning this is a continual process. As the Word of God is interpreted by the teacher, the Spirit of God takes that truth and prompts the hearer to make an application of it. As the hearer responds to the truth and applies it, the Spirit of God allows that person to become more mature, which then causes the Spirit to give more and more knowledge to the individual. However, if the hearer refuses to respond, the Spirit knows it and stops the growth process and leaves the person in ignorance or carnality.

Where is listening to Biblical preaching and teaching on your list of priorities? God's Spirit knows!

Are you yielding to the righteous promptings of the Spirit of God? God's Spirit knows!

Are you for real in your spiritual life? God's Spirit knows!