

“The Wisdom of God”

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

These verses are part of a greater whole that goes down through verse 16. We will look at them in parts, with the greater whole in mind.

This part gives us some help in knowing that, although the world may consider what we do as believers as foolish, we can know from the Word of God that it is not. In fact, we will see in these verses, in part (of the greater whole), that what we have in Christ is wisdom beyond what the world knows, or even can know. It may seem foolish to the lost, but to us it is wisdom beyond understanding, in many ways.

The first word of verse 6 gives us an idea of a change in view of what was before. It doesn't negate it like the word "but" would (which is how this word is most often translated), but it takes what was before and adds a different dimension to it, a different consideration of the truth.

The world's wisdom, we saw in the past couple weeks, is of no consequence, and of no value to the world today when it comes to eternity. I'm not saying we should be willfully ignorant and live that way in life, but we need to make sure we don't use the world's "wisdom" to try and explain God or explain His perfect will. As we will see in this message, the ability to know God and His perfect will is only found through Him – only comes from Him to those that truly desire it.

As we look at these verses, the one thing to understand through it all is that the gospel message of Christ, and man's acceptance of it, and then the truth that follows its acceptance, is what is meant by the "wisdom of God."

So – to the title of the message – what has God prepared for those that love Him? What we will see is not something we are looking for in heaven, but rather something we can see right now, and even right here.

I. WISDOM THAT MATURES – VS. 6

A. This wisdom builds

1. This verse points to the truth that the more mature (“perfect”) we become in Christ the more of His wisdom and truth we will desire
2. “We speak” – common word for uttering words – in this context it speaks of imparting something through those words spoken. This is one of the purposes of preaching as we do in a church service – to impart wisdom.
3. “Wisdom” – Skill or expertise in any art – here, as it refers to the wisdom of God - “In respect to divine things, wisdom, knowledge, insight, deep understanding, represented everywhere as a divine gift, and including the idea of practical application.” (Zodhiates)
4. “Among them that are perfect” – the wisdom of God is seen by the Apostle Paul as he writes to the carnal Corinthian believers as something that only those that are mature in Christ will truly comprehend. This spiritual wisdom builds over time, and the more we have the more we will want more.

B. This wisdom bothers – “yet not the wisdom of this world”

1. Again, we see it's not the wisdom that the world speaks of – it's not the science, and math, and technology, and engineering, etc. of this world that we will want – it will be wisdom from the Word of God
2. This particular issue of wisdom bothers the world – not only is it foolish to them for us to believe what we believe, and do what we do for the Lord, it really bothers them that we believe it and do it

C. This wisdom breaks – "nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought"

1. Those that oppose the wisdom found in God through Christ, the "princes of this world" – the leadership, both politically, socially, religiously, economically – will "come to nought" – will end up, in the end of their life, with nothing to show for their position, and will die like everyone else without the true wisdom found only in Christ.

Ecclesiastes 2:16

(16) For *there is* no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now *is* in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise *man?* as the fool.

2. The phrase "come to nought" are in a tense (present participle) that state "a fact in process of accomplishment – are coming to nought" (Vincent)
3. The word for "nought" in this context means to cease, to be done away. Without the wisdom of God that comes only through faith in Christ, no matter who the person is, they will end up in destruction –

they will cease to be (in hell specifically).

2 Thessalonians 2:8

(8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II. WISDOM AS A MYSTERY – vs. 7-8; COL. 1:25-29

Colossians 1:25-29

(25) Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

(26) *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

(27) To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

(28) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

(29) Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

A. *The mystery received – vs. 7*

1. "But" – this is referring back to the entirety of the context from chapter one, verse 18 – no matter what the world thinks of what we have in Christ, we have the truth
2. "We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery" – we speak the wisdom of God by means of ("in") a mystery – "by delivering a doctrine hidden from the human understanding and revealed to us by God" (Vincent).
3. "Even the hidden wisdom" – literally,

without the italicized words “even” and “wisdom” – “We proclaim the divine wisdom hidden in a mystery” (Barnes)

4. “Which God ordained before the world unto our glory”
 - a) “Which” – the divine wisdom hidden in a mystery
 - b) “God ordained before the world began” – predestination – for-ordination – this is not speaking of God choosing certain to impart grace to – this is speaking (in context) about the gospel message, the wisdom of God in Christ, was chosen as the means to save lost mankind, if the need arose (and it did when Adam sinned). The wisdom of God needed for man to be righteous in God’s eyes was established before the world was even created.
 - c) “Unto our glory” – the wisdom of God that only comes through Christ is given to us when we received the gift of grace, and it is given so that we can grow in that grace and knowledge of Christ – that is the glory spoken of. It was given, as saw in the end of chapter one, so that we can glorify Christ.

1 Peter 5:10

(10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

2 Peter 1:3

(3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and

virtue:

2 Peter 3:18

(18) But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

B. The mystery rejected – vs. 8

1. What to us is truth, and clear, and understandable, is to the lost of the world, the ones that consider what we do as “foolishness” (the previous chapter references this), a “mystery” – something that they don’t understand, something they can’t grasp – in their mind, why do so many people follow a God that they don’t believe exists? It’s literally, and figuratively, to them a mystery that they can’t understand.
2. “Which none of the princes of this world knew” – this is speaking, apparently and specifically, of the leaders of both Judaism (the Sanhedrin) and the Roman government at the time of the crucifixion
3. “For had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” – the mystery of the work of redemption was hidden from the rulers of the Jews in order for Jesus to fulfill prophecy and pay our sin debt on the cross. Had they understood this mystery before the time of its revealing they would have accepted His work on earth as the Messiah and would have never crucified Him. There was no other way for salvation to come than through the cross – so the mystery of it all

was not revealed to them then.

Acts 3:14-18

(14) But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

(15) And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

(16) And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

(17) And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers.

(18) But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

III. WISDOM MANIFESTED – VS. 9-10

A. Revealed spiritual blessings – vs. 9

1. Vs. 9 is often quoted in reference to what the believer will see and receive in heaven, and even though that can be an application of this text, considering it's a quote from the Old Testament, and the context there and here in 1 Corinthians, the right interpretation of this is that it is referring to the wonderful blessings we receive on this earth through the wisdom of God in Christ as they are revealed to us through the Holy Spirit from His Word (primarily).
2. "The things which God hath prepared"
 - a) The things the world cannot see, the things the world thinks are foolish – not only can't they see them (they are spiritually blind –

2 Cor. 4:4), they won't even listen to their truths because they won't let it into their heart.

- b) These things were even wrapped up in a mystery to the Old Testament prophets that wrote about them – they didn't understand it because the mystery hadn't been revealed yet
3. "For them that love him" – the ones that received His grace and are waiting with anticipation for the continued revelation of His will and His Spirit to them.

Romans 8:28

(28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

1 John 4:19

(19) We love him, because he first loved us.

B. Revealed through the Spirit – vs. 10

1. "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit" – the "them" that is revealed are the blessings referred to in vs. 9 that are given to those that love Him
2. It is through the Spirit that we can know God, even the "deep things of God" – the things that will be manifested to the believer as they mature in Christ (more on this in the next message).

Conclusion: There are some that say that church is not a place to gain more understanding (wisdom) of the Bible or of God, but is a place of community, a place of help, a place for the lost to come to Christ.

While it is all those things, and more, this text that we have looked at shows how the idea or purpose of church is to mature (“perfect”) the child of God so we, in turn, can help the immature believer.

That thought poses to questions:

1. Where are you in your Christian walk with the Lord? Are you still in the worldly, carnal stage, like the Corinthians were, unable to understand those “deep things of God” because they still didn’t fully comprehend the mystery that had been revealed? If so, then you need to pursue a greater spiritual growth, and as you do more and more will be revealed, and the more that is revealed the more you will want.
2. Or, are you still like the “princes of the world” were then, without any knowledge of the wisdom of God in Christ? If that’s you then all that matters right now is that you accept the payment made for your sins and trust Christ to forgive you of those sins and save you for eternity.