

Sermon Devotionals for 1Corinthians 2:6-16

Monday: To set context, read through v.1-5. Throughout the week, mark the word *wisdom (of God, of men, of this age), Spirit, power*. To review, when Paul writes a letter he is usually answering questions and addressing problems. Corinth was a metropolitan, urban, intellectual area; people followed after various Greek philosophers. When these folk became believers, they tended to bring these philosophies in to the church with them. According to v.5, what is the problem that Paul is addressing and what is his goal in writing this chapter? When Paul uses the term ‘human wisdom’ or the ‘wisdom of this age’ he is not referring to the advances in technology, medicine, and the sciences. He is referring to ‘philosophy’: the explanations to the ultimate questions—what is man, where did he come from, what’s the reason for existence, what is morality, what/who is God, what is real truth, joy, peace. Where does Paul state the answers to those questions come from or not come from?

Tuesday: Read through 2:6-8. Note the phrase, ‘*we impart*’. What is imparted and to whom? Who does not understand and who is able to understand? Mark the word *mature (complete, perfect)* here and in the following: 1Cor.14:28, Matt.19:21 (complete, perfect), 2Cor.13:11, Matt.5:48. What do you learn?

Wednesday: Read v.10-12; mark *Spirit, spirit*. How are spiritual things discerned? Have you ever tried to explain the gospel intellectually? Have you heard someone try to explain God intellectually? Knowing how the gospel, which is the wisdom of God, is discerned, how does this impact the way you witness or share your faith?

Thursday: Read v.13-16, noting the phrases *spiritual person, natural person*. What do you learn about the spiritual person and the natural person? In a discussion with an unbeliever, have you heard them begin their statements with “Well, I think that God...”? Should you begin your testimony/witness that way? Why or why not based on this passage?

Friday: Read James 3:13-18. Contrast the two ‘wisdoms’. If one has the ‘wisdom from above’—how is it evidenced in their lives? Is wisdom only for the ‘smart and educated’? Only for folks who teach Bible classes or preach sermons? Who is able to access the wisdom of God and why? Read Proverbs 16:16— if you agree with that statement, how is your agreement evidenced in your life?