

THE MIND OF CHRIST

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

Date: 23rd July 2017



Riverstone
BAPTIST CHURCH

Series: The Mind of the Spirit.

God has revealed to us by the Spirit...the mind of Christ. (2:10, 16)

Context: Paul urges us to grow mature in true, divine wisdom. He declares God's wisdom is the gospel message; Christ crucified. (1 Corinthians 1:18-31 & 2:1-5)

1. The SEARCH FOR WISDOM: A HIDDEN MYSTERY (2:6-10a)

Understanding the Influence of our Witness

What does this say about God?

2. The SECRET TO WISDOM; A HEAVENLY MINDSET (2:10b-13)

Understanding the Implications of our Salvation

What does this say about me?

3. SPIRIT-REVEALED MIND OF CHRIST; AN EARTHLY MINDSET (2:14-16)

Understanding the Important Issues of Life

What does this say about my mindset?

Exploring the Text



1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10a and Isaiah 64:4.

According to Paul what differentiates human wisdom from God's wisdom? How does Isaiah help us understand that God's wisdom is a revealed hidden mystery, destined before time began?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:10b-13 and Job 11:6-9.

What 'deep things of God' has he freely given us to understand? Zohpar declares Job's 'fake news' of innocence and demanding to know God's thoughts, adds to his deserved punishment. How will God's now revealed wisdom justify Job and us (then, now and eschatologically for us)? (Hint: how does the whole story of God's salvation from Genesis to our life in eternity, connect in Christ?)

3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 and Isaiah 40:12-18.

What does Paul say the natural person without the Spirit thinks about the Gospel? Does Isaiah help us understand the paradox of this human thinking? How does having the mind of Christ give us the ability to judge all things?

Meditation & Application

4. What 'things' are being revealed by the Spirit that helps us understand the influence of our witness?



5. How will knowing the Spirit-revealed mind of Christ help us understand the implications of our salvation?

6. Spend some time in prayer thinking about how the transforming mind of Christ is able to help you sink yourself more effectively into God's word.

Challenge-

This week think about, "When Jesus comes into your heart, the big questions get answered. You've been made for an eternal relationship with God. You discover that there is a future made possible because Jesus died and it's been made abundantly clear because Jesus rose. God works in and through His people to do incredibly lasting things." Simon Manchester.

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST THROUGH THE SPIRIT

📖 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Wisdom is having the mind of Christ in all things, as revealed by the Spirit.

1. **The SEARCH FOR WISDOM; A HIDDEN MYSTERY.** 📖 2:6-10a

- **Context:** In 1 Corinthians 1– 2 Paul urges us to grow mature in true, divine wisdom. He declares God’s wisdom is the gospel message; Christ crucified (2:1-5).
- Paul distinguishes between God’s eternal wisdom and soon forgotten human wisdom (2:6-7). God’s wisdom is a **hidden mystery, destined** (decided beforehand) for our glory (our salvation and being in Christ) with ‘now and not yet’ ramifications.
- Ironically, ignorant human wisdom made possible the revealing of God’s wisdom (2:8).
- Paul proves his hypothesis with Old Testament scripture (Isaiah 64:4) that blind eyes, deaf ears and uncomprehending minds do not understand the hidden mystery (2:9).
- **Now the mystery of the gospel is revealed by the Spirit** (2:10a).

✚ **KNOWING the GOSPEL needs to be SPIRITUALLY REVEALED** is helpful for truly understanding the power of our WITNESS.

2. **The SECRET TO WISDOM; A HEAVENLY MINDSET.** 📖 2:10b-13

- The **Spirit** knows the depth of God’s heart (2:10b).
 - **Humans only know their own thoughts (2:11a) → therefore a revelation is needed**
- No human knows God’s thoughts except the **Spirit** (2:11b).
- The **Spirit** connects us with God to **reveal** to us his godly heartfelt understanding (true wisdom) of our free ‘now and not yet’ hope and salvation (2:12).
- Paul taught and explained the gospel truth of the spiritual reality of Christ crucified (2:13)

✚ **KNOWING the SPIRIT REVEALED MIND OF CHRIST** is helpful for deeply understanding the implications of our SALVATION.

3. **SPIRIT-FILLED MIND OF CHRIST: AN EARTHLY MINDSET** 📖 2:14-16

- The natural person without the discernment of the Spirit cannot accept or understand what they consider foolish, the gospel of Christ crucified (2:14).
- Christians can examine and adjudicate on ALL issues but...
- Before God, Christians are not subject to the worlds criticism (2:15-16)
 - **For the world tries to match wits with our God who has no equal (Isaiah 40:13)**
- Christians with gospel transformed mindsets can evaluate the world without judgement

✚ **HAVING the MIND OF CHRIST** is helpful for declaring our wise understanding of “all” issues raised in life without fearing judgement.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified**. ⁴My message and my preaching were **not with wise and persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the **Spirit's power**, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on **God's power**.

⁶**We** do, however, **speak a message of wisdom** among the mature (*ready to apprehend divine things*), but **not the wisdom of this age** or of the **rulers of this age**, who are **coming to nothing** (*or soon forgotten*).

⁷**No** (*contrast to earthly wisdom*), **we declare God's wisdom**, a **mystery** that has been **hidden** and that **God destined** (*decided beforehand*) for our **glory** (*our salvation now revealed*) **before time began**.

⁸None of the **rulers of this age** understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord **of glory** (*irony*). ⁹However, as it is written:

"What no **eye** has seen, what no **ear** has heard, (*no understanding*) and what no human *mind* (entered the **heart**) has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him— Isaiah 64:4 & 65:16

¹⁰**For these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.**

For the **Spirit** searches all things, even the **DEEP THINGS OF GOD**.

¹¹**For** who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? Likewise, **no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God**.

¹²What we have received is not the **spirit of the world**, but the **Spirit who is from God** so that we may **understand** what **God has freely given us** (*Salvation*).

¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in **words taught by the Spirit, explaining** (*comparing*) **spiritual realities** (*truths*) **with Spirit-taught words** (*meaning of message – spiritual language*).

¹⁴The (*natural*) **person** without the **Spirit DOES NOT ACCEPT** the things that come from the **Spirit of God** but **considers them FOOLISHNESS**, and **cannot UNDERSTAND them** because they are **discerned** through the **Spirit**.

¹⁵The person with the **Spirit makes judgments** (*Spiritual examination*) about all things, **but** such a person is not subject to **merely human judgments**,

¹⁶**for**, "Who has known the mind (spirit) of the Lord (*match wits*) so as to instruct him?" (Isaiah 40:13)

But we have the mind of Christ.

Emlet, Michael R. **CrossTalk: Where Life & Scripture Meet**. New Growth Press. Kindle Edition.

The Bible is the story of God, who pursues the restoration of his creation at the cost of his own life. God initiated redemption for his people in the Old Testament, the "prototype" being the exodus. Thus, highlighting the importance of Israel for understanding what happens in the New Testament. King Jesus is the culmination of the longed-for redemption anticipated in the Old Testament. The story of Israel and the story of Jesus Christ are intimately connected. Basically, Jesus says, "I am the lens through which you must look at the Old Testament. I am the interpretive key that opens its treasure chest of meaning. If you miss how the Old Testament testifies about me, you will miss where the story of redemption is going." God's continuing mission in the world is tied to his presence with the church, the body of Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

That is the way of the king. That is how he has chosen to bring his renewing rule. Suffering precedes glory. Death precedes resurrection. Grace to his people comes at the cost of his life. God's purpose is the restoring of broken relationship with his image bearers. This way of the cross remains the pattern for our lives until Jesus returns to bring an end to sin and suffering. We should view the New Testament as the Spirit-inspired proclamation and application of Christ's death and resurrection to the lives of God's people.

The Bible's message invites us to turn from unbelief and to participate in the life of the one who, through his death and resurrection, forgives our sins and gives us new life through the Spirit. This redemptive-historical approach to Scripture in no way minimizes the importance of commands, principles, characters, and doctrine in Scripture. Shouldn't the life, death, and resurrection of Christ have some practical connection to disciplining children. Through the Spirit of God and the Word of God, is intent on building a community liberated and transformed by the gospel, with "ministry eyes" for the people in my local church and beyond.

The Bible not only informs; it also transforms our lives. We are dependent on God's Spirit for insight and life change. Apart from Christ, contentment is elusive whether our circumstances are favourable or unfavourable. We functionally worship what we believe will bring us joy, happiness, peace, contentment, and the like. As we witness God's work in one area of our lives, we grow in our belief that he can and will work in other areas. Faith has a momentum. It's easy to say that we worship God in an ultimate sense, but our daily lives reveal the "functional" gods we serve in the moment. How individuals own and act on the sin in their lives also reveals how committed they remain to the details of God's Word.

How people grapple with the nature and purpose of suffering this side of heaven reveals whether, or not (in the moment at least) they are living in line with God's overarching story. The experience of real glory entails self-sacrifice and suffering. The Jews experienced this as they persevered in their work to rebuild the temple, despite ongoing opposition. Glory does not come without participation. That pattern of suffering before glory is seen pre-eminently in Jesus himself.