

To a Degree of Perfection

First Corinthians Chapter Two



~ Our Spiritual Safari is going to request spiritual clarity from the Holy Spirit in this report. Pray now that the Spirit of God will bring you His wisdom, understanding and proper insight into His Word. Proper instruction from the Spirit of God always chastens and rebukes human intellect. Christ is risen and perfect; but we're still naturally wrong in our human thinking – very, very wrong. In our previous report, we considered how the centrality and uniformity of the Lord Jesus Christ always corrects divisions in the church. Once a church is centered on Christ, *THEN* the Holy Spirit can begin to correct erroneous human misconceptions.

Paul did not use a scholarly method of preaching, and he didn't discuss Scripture in light of philosophy or esoterically. Paul was not textual or topical in his sermons. Frankly, I believe that's the Lord's best way of teaching out of all the styles there are of teaching. Paul didn't use high-flown language or flowery prose. Paul was simply revealing the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world in every day common language for the people....

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

~ It's easy to fail to consider the condition Paul was really in at this time. It wasn't good. When God says He has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wise, Paul knew exactly what that meant. You can't write or

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teach what you are ignorant of, my friends. Obviously, Paul was an incredibly intelligent man and author, but I am sure he never thought of himself that way. We have a whole lot of preaching in the pulpits today; but very little of it is done in the Spirit and in the power of God. That's the one thing that is dreadfully neglected — and desperately needed. We must see a return to the demonstration of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives by His power as a result of our obedience if we ever hope to experience revival...

⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

~ Our Spiritual Safari is not, and never has been, an apologetic excursion. Our pretext is that the Bible is the Word of God. We made no concerted attempt to prove scientifically the validity of Genesis; although it can be proven by evidence. The Bible says the flood happened; and that's what happened, for instance. Our salvation doesn't rest on whether or not we can prove the inspiration of Scripture. I happen to know we can prove it, but the real question is: what does your faith rest upon? – Our faith must stand and rest upon the real power of God in our lives. If our faith rests on the power of God demonstrated through us, then we will never accept the things of this world; even as important as those things might appear to be....

⁶ Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

~ "Mystery" occurs twenty-seven times in the New Testament; and many times from the lips of the Lord Jesus Himself. This is not a who-done-it

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mystery, though. Jesus said, *“it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.”* The mystery parables, such as Matthew chapter thirteen records, are designated such because they speak of the direction the kingdom is going to take in the interval between the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His return to establish His kingdom here on earth. None of that had been revealed to man by God in the Old Testament – and the prophets wondered about it, too, by the way. Here, we have just such revelation.

The word *“mystery”* originated in ancient mystery religions, mainly, the occult. We find it repeatedly baked-in to sciences of all disciplines. Here, Paul gives the word *“mystery”* an entirely new meaning. Mystery comes from a root word meaning *“mouth.”* - It means *“to shut the mouth.”* Paul had been silent to this church about many things; but he’s about to become quite vocal. There were certain things that were not known and could not be known as a result of human investigations or within the realm of the human intellect. It has, however, been revealed so that man can understand the things of God if man will approach God on God’s terms. God’s wisdom is not of this age and it sure isn’t of this world....

⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

~ This verse has shown up and been misused at funerals so many times that it has stained Christianity with a gross misunderstanding. I’m not going to give you their misinterpretation, though — because I’m not going to argue this point. Let’s just say I don’t think it should be used at a funeral. Paul is saying right here and *NOW* there are things the eye hath not seen. Spiritual things cannot be learned by seeing or hearing about them audibly or otherwise. Cogitation alone cannot and will not lead you to an understanding of the Word of God. There are certain things in the realm of

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Godly reason we could never, ever discover in our own pursuit of intellect — but *are* available to us *IN THIS LIFE*....

¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

~ The spiritual realm of the Lord Jesus Christ can only be unveiled by the Holy Spirit Himself; and He only does so using the Word of God, friends. No other way. There are certain things man can glean from the Bible regarding reasoning, but the deep spiritual matters of Christ only come by revelation through the Spirit of God. On the other hand, you're not going to carry around a Bible and have it absorb into your skin and affect a change of your heart. You're going to have to actually open it, and learn it, and then *DO* those things which God reveals to you; and that is where most Christians are literally stuck in failure and dysfunction in their relationship to Jesus.

There is no method that is going to lead you to understand the Word of God except studying it in an educated, competent manner by a teacher who is led by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Spirit of God. You might memorize all the kings of Judah and Israel and the prophets and the heads and princes of all twelve tribes, but you cannot get spiritual truth that way, my friend. Unless you have asked for discernment and judgment in prayer, and then followed through with sincere Bible study, there are certain things the Holy Spirit will *never* reveal to you throughout eternity - period....

¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

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14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

~ You and I can know how each other feels regarding certain things simply because we share the spirit of man. But, if we want to know the things of God, He is going to have to reveal Himself to us. The Holy Spirit is our teacher when we freely come to Him and ask for wisdom, judgment and discernment. That's what the Spiritual Safari is all about.

We're all born into the world the same way: dead in trespasses and sins. We are born with zero – *NONE* – capacity for God. We are, naturally, born enemies of God. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, they are foolishness unto him. That's our default condition. If you're reading this report - and if you are unsaved - and you don't think I'm a foolish, rambling, dark, lonely, cynical, pathetic, oddball loser; then there's something wrong with *Y-O-U*. See, one of us is wrong.

If you are unsaved and you believe this is all foolishness, then God says to you: this is My wisdom. God also says *Y-O-U* are the one who is wrong; and if you want to argue with God, that's your business, friends. God gave His Son to die on the cross to heal us from our sin. Christ was buried and raised again on the third day according to Scripture. All we have to do is trust Him to be saved. If you are not saved, then you are incapable of seeing how anyone can ever be saved. Well, that just happens to be the power of God unto salvation! If this is you — if you think the Bible is foolish — please let me know. If you're saved — I would like to know, too.

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You're not going to understand the Word of God until the Holy Spirit opens your heart, mind and life to understand it; and God won't do that until you ask Him to. You can just write that down. Faith in Christ isn't something we can manufacture in our minds. We can't tell God anything new, but He can tell us many, many new things. Jesus said, *"I have many things to say unto you but you cannot bare them now!"* Until the Holy Spirit reveals the mind of Christ, we can never have that type of reality, experience or emotion with our Father in a relationship; and these things are all *ONLY – ONLY* revealed – you may be absolutely sure — in the Word of God ~

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