

The Wisdom Of God

1 Cor. 2:6-8

Introduction:

- A. Apostolic teaching is *wisdom* and *testimony* of God. (vv. 1,7; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37).
- B. Apostolic teaching considered *insufficient* and *irrelevant* by many today.
 - 1. Yet, apostles divinely inspired as to *what* and *how* to speak. (Matt. 10:19).
 - 2. Has never appealed to carnal minds -- in or out of church. (v. 14).
 - a. Catholics: "No...The Bible Is NOT Our Sole Guide (K of C ad in magazines).
 - b. Baptists: "Now it is different" (Hiscox Manual, p. 22)
 - c. Institutional brethren: "Many things for which we have no authority"
 - d. Many other brethren: Prefer Pop psychology, Motivational hype to gospel preaching.
- C. Apostle Paul discusses for us three aspects of the wisdom of God.

Discussion:

I. The Revelation Of God's Wisdom.

- A. The process of revelation was an "uncovering" (APOKALUPTO) of God's mind. (v.10).
 - 1. Formerly concealed in God's mind. (2:7-9; Eph. 3:9).
 - 2. Only known by Spirit Of God. (2:10-11).
 - 3. Revealed to Apostles and Prophets by Spirit. (2:10-16; cf. Eph. 3:5).
 - 4. Passed on to us by Apostles and Prophets. (2:12,13; cf. Eph. 4:3; cf. 2 Tim. 2:2).
- B. The method of revelation was "verbal" (2:13).

II. The Nature Of God's Wisdom.

- A. It saves souls. (1:18-21; cf. Rom. 1:16).
 - 1. This, man, in all his power and wisdom, cannot do. (cf. Eph. 2:8,9)
 - 2. This is conditioned on man's response. (Mk. 16:16; Heb. 5:8,9; Phil. 1:12)
- B. It offends many. (1:22-26)
 - 1. Was to Naaman (2 Kings 5).
 - 2. Was to Pharisees (Matt. 15:12,13).
 - 3. Was to some brethren. (2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6).
- C. It exalts the Lord. (vv. 26-31; 2:1-5).
 - 1. Human wisdom and needless signs would have hindered this purpose.
 - 2. Excellence of speech would have hindered this purpose.
 - 3. Straightforward and above board teaching exalts the Lord. (cf. 2 Cor. 4:2-6 NJK, NIV).
 - 4. Church as God designed it exalts the Lord. (Eph. 3:10,21).
- D. It is superior to all. (1:25).
 - 1. Produces what no system of human thought can -- salvation. (cf. Mt. 7:21-23).
 - 2. Produces the very best possible character. (Jas. 3:15-17).

III. The Application Of God's Wisdom.

- A. Applies to all men. (1:24; cf. Acts 17:30).
- B. Applies for all time. (Eph. 3:21; Jude 3).
- C. Applies to all places. (1 Cor. 4:7; Acts 17:30; Mk. 16:15).

IV. The Presentation Of God's Wisdom.

- A. Not with persuasive words of man's wisdom (2:4-5).
- B. Not to impress wisdom of speaker, but wisdom of God's message (v. 2:2)

- C. Not to impress power of speaker, but power of God's message (2:3)
- D. Aim to leave hearer with "What a powerful savior, not what a powerful speaker" —
"What a great message, not what a great presentation" — Marvel at wisdom of God's word, not wisdom of preacher.

Conclusion:

- A. In whom or what does your faith stand? (2:5).
 - 1. Concerning Plan of Salvation?
 - 2. Concerning Church - structure and work.
- B. Need to spend more time in Bible study -- less in human wisdom.