

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's wisdom has been revealed to us through His Spirit in the words found in the 1 Corinthians 2:6-13.

**"6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."**

So far our text. Dear fellow recipients of God's wisdom.

How smart are you? What qualifies someone to have that label? Does someone need a diploma of some kind to be considered smart? Does a person need to be a member of MENSA before they are considered as being wise?

A common response might be, "I do well in some things but in other things I don't know very much." We all have areas where we feel pretty comfortable in regards to our level of knowledge. What we do for our livings is something we might think we have a good level of knowledge in. We might have other areas, hobbies in which we are learning new things and growing in knowledge. It takes allot of work to become proficient in new things.

Some of us have a natural talent for certain things. Some people can pick up an instrument and with little learning play it very well. And it doesn't take long before people like this are very skilled at playing it.

We go to people who have skills that we are looking to acquire. Our parents have skills that they have learned over their lifetimes. Parents can be an incredible source of wisdom if children could just get over thinking that they are smarter than their parents. We have friends who we admire for certain skills and learn from them. Schools are setup to impart wisdom to people. Before you can become a teacher or professor you must go through a great deal of work and have certain qualifications.

And sometimes, no matter how hard one tries we just can't seem to get a grasp on certain things. I know that when I used to play guitar I got to a certain level of abilities but seemed to hit a wall in my progress. Sometimes certain things are just too hard for us to understand.

But there is something that the so-called stupidest or so-called smartest person in the world could've never understood on His own. And that is the wisdom of God. And in our text for today our Lord reveals to us that, **"God alone reveals His wisdom."**

We are once again dealing with a letter that the Holy Spirit had Paul send to Corinth. If you remember, Paul was dealing with a situation where many were attacking his office as an Apostle. They were doing this to try and destroy the faith of the Corinthians. The false teachers among them were trying to have the Corinthians go back to the rules and regulations of the Jews; and to the false gods of the Gentiles.

But Paul said of those who were preaching faithfully, **"However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing."**

Paul was saying that the Gospel they were preaching was meant for the mature. Amazingly and quite wonderfully the word mature in the Greek of this verse means perfect. So Paul was speaking wisdom to those who were perfect. At first glance we would all exclude ourselves. We would think that we were outside this Gospel message that Paul preached. But the idea here is that the higher teachings of Jesus that was being brought, the wisdom that only God alone can reveal could only be understood by Christians. Paul was speaking of wisdom that can only be grasped after someone comes to faith.

Paul said that he wasn't preaching the wisdom of this age. Neither was he preaching the wisdom of the rulers of this age. It isn't hard for us to have these words reflect on our times as well.

Every age of mankind has thought that they were something special. Governments have often looked at what they setup as the ultimate in the wisdom of man. The Egyptian government under the Pharaohs is a good example of this. The Pharaohs and the Egyptian people went so far as to make the Pharaohs out to be a god.

Even the people who were alive at the time this letter was written were dealing with a group of people who thought they were wise. Our text refers to them as the rulers of this age. This is likely the government of the Jews and the Roman government. The Jews had some authority even though the Roman Empire ruled the land. But false teaching that was so prevalent that the Jewish people as a whole didn't understand the Gospel. A man named Nicodemus was perplexed about Jesus because of the signs He was performing. He couldn't understand Jesus' response about being born again. **"Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"**

And of all these so-called people of wisdom our text speaks of will come to nothing. But the wisdom that God alone can reveal will never pass away.

**"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."**

Have you ever noticed how much more people of experience are listened to? A certain amount of respect comes with being in a field for a long time. We admire people with great knowledge and show them a certain amount of honor because of it.

If for one second you think that the Gospel should play second fiddle to any other so called gospel remember that God's wisdom was ordained before the ages of the world. Our loving God is eternal. And along with it comes an eternity of perfection. What greater source of wisdom and understanding could we have?

When religions are spoken of in the news and on TV it seems as though the older the religion is the more people feel they should be respected, except the Gospel. It is so unfortunate that the world doesn't understand that the Gospel is and will forever be eternal.

And my friends, this was done for our glory! You see our text says that His wisdom is a mystery. The way this word is used most of the time can cast some confusion on our text. Unfortunately the proper understanding of this word in light of our text is the 6<sup>th</sup> one, the very last one. It simply means, "A religious truth that is incomprehensible to reason and knowable only through divine revelation."

God could do nothing more than reveal His wisdom to us in Christ. It would've gone against God's very nature to not reveal His wonderful plan of salvation to us. Even though He knew that it would come at a great expense.

But it was an expense that needed to be paid. We owe God perfection. But it is something that we ourselves can never do on our own. **"But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. 7 And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities."**

But because Jesus came living a life of righteousness and then finally willingly laying down His life for us His righteousness is imputed to us. It is given to us so perfectly that the Lord sees us in the same way He sees His Son. **"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."**

And that same Spirit is the one who revealed the wisdom of God to us. For **"God alone reveals His wisdom"** to us.

**"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."**

Isn't that the truth? I don't think there's a single person here today that hasn't spoken something and have it come out wrong. But we knew what we meant. Sometimes people assume what we are thinking or what we meant by something. But unless we are asked about it the original intentions of the person is never really made known to us.

But the thoughts and intentions of God, that mystery is something that can never be known unless He reveals it to us. Thank God that He has chosen to reveal His wisdom to us. Because we do not have the Spirit of God dwelling in us according to our human nature.

When we seek out the knowledge and wisdom of others it usually comes at a price. Services of the world are typically not free. And if you're not charged for a service often it is expected that we pay back the person in a different way.

But our text says that **"God alone reveals His wisdom"** but that He does it freely. It is given to us so that we may know Him. That perfect plan of salvation in His Son. Jesus said, **"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."**

Through the hearing of His word we are as the prayer says, taught to repent of our sins and believe in Jesus in life and in death and to grow day by day in grace and holiness.

You have received this wisdom. You are the perfect ones the Lord is speaking of in our text. You have faith in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. And it was and is accomplished by the Holy Spirit who is living and active through His word.

And finally Paul says this, **"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."**

The "we" in this verse applies to all the children of God. **"God alone reveals His wisdom"** and has chosen to reveal it to you. Just as He was unable to keep His message of salvation in His Son locked away, we now have the same desire to preach the message of reconciliation.

Often times we worry about what we are going to say if we have a chance to witness to someone. We think that we will say the wrong thing or say it in a way that won't be effective. But knowing that we have been equipped with God's wisdom by the Holy Spirit and have been asked to preach it we can have confidence in the result. The Lord promised that His word would not return to Him void. That is to say, without doing what He desires with it.

Therefore the only thing we need to concern ourselves with is the mystery of God revealed to us through His Spirit in the Scriptures and not the wisdom of the world.

**"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel."**

**"God alone reveals His wisdom."** Thank God that He has revealed it to us. And may it be the only source of your comfort of eternal life with Him. And may we preach it to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds though Christ Jesus. Amen.