

1Corinthians – Week 10

I. Review (1Cor. 2:6-7)

A. Regarding the word of the cross (1Cor. 1:18) ...

- i. The word of the cross imparts wisdom that does not pass away!
 1. Unlike the wisdom of this age which is doomed to pass away!
 2. In other words, the rulers of this age are headed nowhere!
- ii. The word of the cross makes known God's secret and hidden wisdom to the world!
 1. Ephesians 3:2-12 gives us insight into the mystery...
 - a. Both Jew and Gentile would receive the promise of Christ!
 2. This revealed mystery is summarized by Paul in 1Timothy 3:16
 - a. Christ was manifested in the flesh
 - b. Vindicated by the Spirit (the Spirit testified to His identity)
 - c. Seen by angels
 - d. Proclaimed among the nations (gospel preached beyond Jewish borders)
 - e. Believed on in the world (Jew and Gentiles became believers)
 - f. Taken up in glory
- iii. The word of the cross is beneficial to us!
 1. The gospel message is for our glory, that is, for our redemption and exaltation!
 - a. The Bible says Christians shall judge angels and reign with Christ (1Cor. 6:3; 2Tim. 2:12)!

II. Continuation

A. The word of the cross is supernatural!

- i. 1Cor. 2:8 (ESV), "*None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*"
 1. The Jewish and Roman rulers responsible for the death of Christ did not understand the purpose and significance of the cross, thus, showing their lack of true wisdom.
 2. Had they known that Christ was the fullness of the godhead in bodily form (Col. 2:9), they would have not killed Him!
 3. The term "*Lord of glory*" depicts Christ as supreme God:
 - a. The Father shares a similar title, being called the "*Father of glory*" in Ephesians 1:17
 - b. And the Spirit, being called the "*Spirit of glory*" in 1Peter 4:14
- ii. 1Cor. 2:9 (ESV), "*But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.'*"
 1. Paul summarizes his point by paraphrasing Isaiah 64:4...
 - a. In context, Paul is not speaking about the afterlife, he is addressing the wisdom of this age vs. the wisdom that comes from the word of the cross!
 - b. Paul's point is this: no man (no matter how elegant he spoke or how 'wise' he appeared to be) understood God's secret and hidden plan, except by divine revelation!
 - c. God's design and plan is something no man could imagine or think up.
 - d. It is something that even goes against human wisdom.
 - e. Think about it...
 - i. The world tells us to indulge our desires to find happiness, God tells us to control our desires so we can know joy.
 - ii. The world tells us to fight and get revenge because if you don't, you will be called a wimp; God's wisdom tells us to love our enemies and to extend forgiveness to others.

- iii. The world says we should do whatever we can get away with. After all, everyone else is doing it; God’s wisdom says we will all face judgment for every idle thought and hidden deed (i.e. we won’t “get away with anything”).
- iv. The world says gaining possessions is most important; God’s wisdom says godly character is most important.

B. The word of the cross is Spirit-directed.

i. 1Cor. 2:10-11 (ESV), *“these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*

1. The pronoun “us” primarily refers to those whom God has spoken through, that is, His holy apostles and prophets...

a. Ephesians 3:4-5 (ESV), *“...the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit”*

2. The pronoun “us” applies to all Christians only in the sense of their having received God’s revelation through the apostles and prophets.

a. Ephesians 3:1-3 (ESV), *“For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ”*

b. God’s mystery has been revealed and recorded within the pages of the New Testament.

3. What has God revealed through the Spirit?

a. The gospel of Christ and its teachings!

4. The “*wisdom of this age*” cannot know the thoughts and ways of God, except the Holy Spirit!

a. The term “*searches*” denotes a profound knowledge.

5. Paul goes on to explain how a person cannot know another person’s thoughts, except that person himself.

a. To put it another way, no one knows you better than you!

i. The reason is that you live with you.

ii. I doesn’t matter how well your spouse knows you or how long you have been married, no one knows you like you do.

iii. No one knows your private thoughts and those deep internals struggles you keep hidden. Because we have a spirit, we are usually our own best interpreter.

iv. That’s why when two people get into an argument, one of them will often say, “Don’t try to tell me what I mean. I know what I am saying!”

b. In the same way, only the Holy Spirit knows God’s thoughts!

i. And just as a person cannot know another person’s thoughts, except he shares them with him, God’s thoughts can only be known through the Spirit’s revelation!

ii. Therefore, no man can know God’s design or plan, unless God reveals it to them by the Spirit!