

## **Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians**

### **God's Wisdom: Revealed and Understood**

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

1. **Communication** (vs.6-7; cf. vs.1-2)

Paul did not come with speech and eloquence to mesmerize men, but he did come preaching the wisdom of God (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:1-2). This wisdom has been hidden by God and clouded in a mystery so that people are unable to find it by any natural means. Preaching the gospel and focussing on the gospel of Jesus Christ is not foolishness, it only seems that way to those who are perishing (1 Cor. 1:18).

2. **Repudiation** (v.8)

The wisdom of God is not the wisdom that is known and employed by modern rulers. When God's message is clearly proclaimed, it does not naturally result with people receiving it or obeying it (cf. Matt. 24:39). People who are wise in matters of their own religion are no more able to respond appropriately to the proclamation of God's wisdom (cf. Matt. 16:2-3), and their actions give evidence that they did not understand it (cf. Acts 2:22-24).

3. **Revelation** (vs.9-13)

God has made His wisdom known to those who have believed (cf. 1 Cor 1:21). Men cannot understand God on our own, it is the Holy Spirit who knows and understands the mind of God (v.11). He is able to give us understanding concerning what God has given to us (v.12) and He will teach us how to speak about these things to one another (v.13; cf. 2 Pet. 1:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

4. **Illumination** (vs.14-16)

Apart from His gracious revelation, men cannot understand the wisdom of God. Men lack the capacity to evaluate it, and therefore consider it foolishness. The believer is able to properly evaluate the gospel message and therefore has the capacity to understand all other spiritual things (cf. John 14:26; 16:12-15; Eph. 1:17-18).