

connecting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"Secret Wisdom" (I Corinthians 2:1-3:1)

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I. THE TEXT

v.6 Are "the rulers of this age" humans? (Eph.6)

v.7 In the context, this "secret wisdom" is connected to the message of the cross. It includes all the blessings one receives by responding to the gospel (receiving Jesus), but it also means (in the context) living out the message of the cross. Living by the wisdom of the Spirit versus the wisdom of the world refer to last week see John 6:51, 53-57.

v.8 If they had understood the wisdom of the cross, they would not have put Jesus on the cross. But the Jews could not comprehend a suffering Messiah.

* They ignored, even rejected what the Holy Spirit was saying concerning Jesus (blasphemy of the H.S.). See John 8:43-44a, 47.

* Even Peter had a hard time comprehending the wisdom of the cross (see Matthew 16:21-25).

v.9 What is the context of this verse? (Isa.64:4)

* Isaiah was telling them of a glorious future, but they could not see it, not only because of their oppressive circumstances, but also because of their hard hearts.

* While it is impossible to totally comprehend the glorious future for the saints, this verse is not saying that we cannot comprehend our glorious future, but that it is only comprehended when we listen to what the Spirit is trying to tell us.

v.12 In the context, what has God given us?

* Tremendous spiritual blessings because of the cross; a glorious future.

* The "secret wisdom" to understand the cross, and the glories to follow

* I Peter 1: 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

v.16 See Phil.2:1-9a

* John 10: 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

II. THE PROBLEM

* If they have the mind of Christ, then why are carnal? They have had time to mature, but they have not matured (see I Cor.3:1ff). and it is because they have not personally embraced the message of the cross, because that message requires me to die the flesh in order for the Spirit to rule and reign in my life.

* Illus: Baby bottle

* It is a wonderful experience when a baby comes into a home, but it is a tragedy if the child does not grow. A baby is absolutely dependent on other people. He cannot walk on his own or feed himself. He is only happy when he is the center of attention. He is naturally selfish

III. THE PATH TO MATURITY

* Be born again

* Mortify the flesh the cross and live by the Spirit; I could talk about developing a devotional life, etc., but the bottom line is that if a Christian were dying to self and heeding what the Spirit was urging them to do, they would be developing a devotional life, etc.

* See Gal.5:16-17, 25

* Eph.4: 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

* I Thess.5: 19 Quench not the Spirit.

IV. THE POTENTIAL

A. The Potential To Mature

* The potential is that they can become spiritual. Every Christian has the potential to become spiritual, because we all have the mind of Christ, and we all possess the Spirit of God.

* The spiritual Christian understands the "secret wisdom" of Christ (v.7). It is wisdom connected to the message of the cross. Until one comes to understand and live by the wisdom of the cross, they will never reap the benefits of this "secret" wisdom.

B. What Does A Mature/Spiritual Christian Look Like?

1. Controlled by the Spirit, not the flesh.

- A mature Christian sins, but he does not practice the habit of sin. The habit of life is victory and not defeat.

- Titus 2:11-13

- I Peter 4: 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation

2 Not overcome by evil but overcomes evil with good

- Rom. 12:21

3. Has a new value system

- The values of this world are traded in for the values of heaven

- Luke 16: 13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

- I Cor. 7: 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

- Heaven's streets are paved in gold!

- The rich young ruler; Luke 12:21

- He is no fool to lose what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose.

- Joy is found not through what I possess, but by what possesses me.

- Heb. 1: 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

4. Present sufferings are viewed in light of eternal glory

- Rom. 8: 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- Heb. 12: 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

5. Temporary pleasures are seen in light of eternal pleasures

- See Heb. 11:24-26

6. Realizes exaltation comes by way of humility/servanthood

- Matthew 23: 11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

- The way up is down

- I Cor. 6: 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

7. Life is lived by faith, not sight

- Heb.11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

- II Cor.4: 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- Heb.11: 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

8. Circumstances do not dictate peace/security (See Phil.4:6-7).

9. Does not live in the past

- See Phil.3:13-16

10. Has an understanding of coming judgment

- Gen.19: 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

- Hosea 9: 7 The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac.

- Matthew 24: 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.