

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 God's Spiritual Wisdom

Introduction

The Corinthians were a church full of problems. Our purpose in reading this letter is to learn from their mistakes-- we want to be strong and to excel in the areas in which they struggled. What do you recall as being important from our last study?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

1. In the previous passage Paul has said that his gospel message does not depend on wisdom. But now Paul says that he *does* speak a message of wisdom (v6). There seems to be a contradiction. What, do you think, he is actually saying here?
2. To whom does Paul speak this message of wisdom and to what end? (v7)
3. What exactly is it that 'no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind conceived', 'but God has revealed to us'? (v9)
4. To confirm your answer to the previous question, what is the general theme of Isa 64:4? How does this fit with what Paul is saying in this passage in v7-8?
5. According to this passage, the Holy Spirit has a fundamental role in the spread of the gospel message. At a practical level, what does this mean for your non-Christian friends and family? What does this mean for your prayers?
6. How do you know the Holy Spirit's work in your life? What influence does *your* attitude, prayers and behaviour have on the Holy Spirit's work in your life? (try to reflect on this in relation to what this passage is saying)
7. How would you sum up Paul's message to the Corinthians in this passage? What has this got to do with their problem of division and disunity?

For further reflection

8. Consider Paul's prayer for the Colossians:

Col. 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will *through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*. ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

How does our passage in 1 Cor 2:6-16 help us understand what Paul is praying for here?
Pray this prayer for yourself and for our church.

9. How might you foster and nurture the Holy Spirit's work in your life?