

Series: The Wisdom, Wonder, and Witness of the Gospel
The Impartation of Truth # 5
1 Corinthians 2: 10-13

Today I plan to conclude our series on the significance of the Gospel. Paul has been very clear with his presentation of the Gospel, seeking to influence those who are skeptical and reach those who are receptive. He had experienced its transforming power and desired others to experience the same transformation in Christ. Paul knew it was man's only hope for forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to God.

While studying this passage, I read a message on the text prepared by Ray Pritchard.¹ In his introduction, he relayed the passage deals with two questions we often ask ourselves concerning the Gospel. One, why do some reject the Gospel? Anyone who has shared the Gospel with others has dealt with those who refuse to accept it and walk away wondering why they would possibly reject the sole means of salvation. The second question is: why did we embrace the Gospel, believing in Christ unto salvation? What caused us to respond differently than countless others?

As I considered these profound questions, I realized they do lie within the heart of the passage. In fact, much of what we have discussed in recent weeks deals with these vital questions. The answer is simple and yet very profound. The difference in those who receive the Gospel and those who reject it is the working of the Holy Spirit in revealing truth. Once that truth is revealed, we are responsible to respond to the call of God. How we respond to the truth revealed determines our eternal destiny. This flies in the face of human pride and arrogance, but we cannot know God intimately until He reveals Himself through His Spirit. I want to examine the [truths](#) Paul shares as we consider: [The Impartation of Truth](#).

I. The Revelation of the Spirit (10-11) – Here Paul speaks of the revelation of God's wisdom through the Holy Spirit. Our lives are much different than those of the world because of salvation in the Lord and the wisdom we possess, given of the Spirit. Notice:

A. The Source of Wisdom (10a) – [But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit](#). Paul had just spoken of man's inability to comprehend all that the believer possesses in Christ, but this deals with much more than that. He actually refers to the greater context of what we have discussed in recent weeks: the wisdom of God that leads to salvation. We must never forget, or lose sight of the fact, that the spiritual wisdom we possess comes from God alone through the Spirit.

- We must also recognize that God has given us His infallible Word, in its entirety in order to provide the wisdom we need to know Him and live for Him. The wisdom one needs to live for Christ and be an effective witness will never be obtained through this world or given of men. God alone is the source of spiritual wisdom all men need. All other religions, and even those who deny the existence of God, emphasize works, intellect, and personal merit. God provides the wisdom we need to embrace the finished work of Christ by faith. Eph.2:8-9 – *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* [9] *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

B. The Scope of Wisdom (10b) – *for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* We have discussed man's inability to know the mind of God. The wisdom needed for salvation and a right relationship with Christ is never obtained through worldly means. Man left to himself, seeking answers among the world, will remain in sin. However, God provided the means for wisdom to be shared with humanity. The Holy Spirit reveals truth to us, convicting of sin and drawing us into a loving, reconciled relationship with God through Christ our Lord and Savior.

- We cannot begin to imagine what we have received through our relationship with Christ. One of the great benefits is the presence of the Spirit to comfort and guide our lives. He is the third Person of the Godhead. He has the ability to know the mind of God, the deep truths of God that man will never know apart from the Spirit. He searches these truths and reveals them to us as we grow and mature in the Lord. This is why many claim they can't understand the Bible. It is a spiritual book that requires spiritual discernment. One cannot know God apart from His Spirit. One will not comprehend the depths of Scripture until he has been enlightened by the Spirit. Psalm 139:6 – *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.* Rom.11:33 – *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

C. The Standard for Wisdom (11) – *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.* Now Paul addresses the standard by which wisdom is set and measured. Consider:

1. The Comparison (11a) – *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?* This simply reveals our inability to fully understand others. Our wisdom is very limited apart from the Lord. Other than the Lord, only I truly know what is within my heart, and even my comprehension of my own heart is limited. Paul shares that we cannot possibly know what is within the mind and heart of those around us. We may think we know someone, but in reality we only know what they express through word and action.

2. The Comprehension (11b) – even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

While man can only know what lies within himself alone, only God can truly know His thoughts and heart. It stands to reason, if we can't know the heart of another man, we cannot possibly know the heart of God. Again however, God has made provision for the inadequacy of man. God desires fellowship with humanity. He wants us to know Him in a personal and intimate way. In ourselves this is impossible, but through the Spirit we can know God because He knows the heart and mind of God.

- Believer, do you long to know God more intimately than you currently do? You can know God through the Spirit. We talk to God through prayer, and the Spirit intercedes for us as we pray, speaking on our behalf. God speaks to us through His complete revelation: the Word. One may grasp a general understanding of some passages, but to comprehend the depths of the Bible, the Spirit must illuminate our hearts and minds to the truth it reveals. (Have you ever read a passage of Scripture and not been able to comprehend it, only to go back later and it was as if a light came on in your mind? The Spirit revealed truth to you!)

II. The Illumination of the Spirit (12-13) – Paul now discusses the work of the Spirit in the lives of believers as He enlightens us to the truths of God. Consider:

A. The Perspective (12a) – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God. The believer enjoys a decided advantage over the world at large. Those apart from Christ in salvation are dependent upon themselves and the world around them to provide the support and wisdom they need to navigate life. The believer enjoys wisdom from above through the Holy Spirit, not just the human reasoning of this world.

- There can be no doubt that humanity has developed much knowledge in the modern era. We have advanced technological systems, transportation, and major advancements in regard to medicine and physical well being. However, I am thankful this isn't all that is available to us in this life. We can benefit from the knowledge men possess, while resting in the wisdom from above. Man may be able to care for my physical health to a degree, but I am serving One who is well able to meet my physical needs here and provide a place for me spiritually throughout eternity! The knowledge of man cannot compare to the wisdom of God.

B. The Purpose (12b) – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Paul reminds us of the purpose in all this. It isn't just an intellectual challenge to enhance our knowledge. The Spirit reveals truth so we might know God and better understand the many benefits and provisions He offers His

children. The Spirit speaks truth so we can grow in our faith and better serve the Lord while reaching others for Christ. The closer we walk with God, hearing from Him through the Spirit, the more divine truth we receive. Isn't that a blessing to consider? The God of heaven, Creator of the universe, desires us to know Him and embrace the gracious gifts He freely gives!

C. The Perception (13a) – [Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.](#) This reveals a distinguishable difference in the believer and the world. We do not speak and promote the ideals and philosophies of the world. We have a superior teacher that reveals divine truth. The Christian is not to be consumed with the cares of this life, but focused on the spiritual matters that pertain to righteousness and eternity. That isn't to say that cares and events of life never concern us, but we do not let them dictate our lives. We are looking at the big picture God has revealed through His Word. Our desires exceed the cares and pleasures of this life. We now see things through the lens of Scripture, viewing life from a spiritual perspective.

D. The Proclamation (13b) – [comparing spiritual things with spiritual.](#) This certainly goes along with our perception, our spiritual enlightenment, but is also takes it a step further. The idea of comparing is not limited to seeking similarities or mere comparisons between two items. This has the idea of taking the truths we learned from Scripture through the Spirit, putting those truths together, and proclaiming them to others. It is rightly dividing the Word of truth and sharing the wisdom received of God with others.

- I am thankful for the Gospel and the wisdom that accompanies it. I am by no means a scholar, but God has revealed truth to me as I have walked with Him. I have matured in my faith as the Spirit has enlightened my understanding. It would be a tragedy to put these truths together, better understanding the essence and purposes of God, and never share what I had learned. We are not called to learn truth and keep it to ourselves. We must be willing to share the precious truths of the Gospel, seeking to win others to Christ.

Conclusion: This passage has dealt with the wisdom and witness of the Gospel. If we are to know God, He must reveal Himself unto us. We stand in need of spiritual revelation and illumination. This only comes through a personal relationship with Christ in salvation.

Have you responded to the wisdom God has revealed to you? Do you know Christ as your Savior and Lord? Christian are you committed to learning more of God and sharing the Gospel with a world that desperately needs to hear? We will give account of how we handled what we have received. If God has spoken to you through the Spirit, respond to Him in faith.

ⁱ <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/how-we-know-what-we-know/>