

A Deep, Wise Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:6-13)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. *The Bible's Greatest Secrets & Mysteries*
 - B. Review of the context (helps us understand the meaning of a text that is often misunderstood and misused)
 - C. Read the passage and outline of the sermon
- II. **Wisdom – 2:6-9** (Contrasting those who receive it and those who do not)
 - A. Is *the message of the cross* **wisdom** or **foolishness**?
 1. Hints that the message of the cross is indeed, **wisdom** (1 Cor 1:30)
 2. Re-defining **wisdom** from a philosophical worldly term to a soteriological biblical term (1 Cor 2:6)
 - a. *The message of the cross* is **wisdom**, but not the kind of wisdom (*sofia*) the Greeks sophists were used to
 - b. This is not an accommodation that Paul is making to Sophists
 - i. Contemporary examples of this kind of accommodation (Jesus will get you really high, and the Donut Man)
 - c. a strong contrast between them (1 Cor 2:7-8)
 - B. Those who *do* receive God's **wisdom** are called "**mature**" (1 Cor 2:6)
 1. *tois teleois – perfect, reaching the end*
 2. **The mature** are not a higher class of Christian, but all Christians
 - a. Proven by the contrast those *who are doomed to pass away*
 - b. Why would the Holy Spirit use this word then?
 - i. The Corinthians thought themselves mature
 - ii. Paul is employing subtle irony in using this word
 - C. *Are you mature?*
 1. Do you believe the cross is the only solution to finally and fully deal with the consequences and guilt of your sin?
 2. Do you believe in Jesus, but think that you must add something of your own doing or self
 - a. If you are in this group, be admonished to rest 100% on *Christ crucified* as the only basis and hope for your salvation.
 - D. What **wisdom**! (1 Cor 2:8-9)
 1. The *rulers of this age* carried out *God's purpose* (Acts 4:27-28)
 2. A **wisdom** hidden from the perishing, revealed to the elect
 - a. Rejoice for this **wisdom** has been revealed to you!
- III. **Spirit – 2:10-13** (Contrasting the Holy Spirit and the spirit of the world)
 - A. The **wisdom** of God is revealed through the Spirit of God (2:10-11)
 1. Understanding this mystery requires a new birth (John 3:3-8)
 - B. God gave us His Spirit so that we might know His grace (2:12)
 1. Only a monergistic salvation is truly all of grace!
 - C. It comes to us by spiritual words (2:13)
 1. words taught to us by the Spirit
 2. a difficult verse to translate
 - a. interpreting, combining, or comparing?
 - b. spiritual things or spiritual men?