

INTRODUCTION

In the last section (**1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**), Paul was systematically dismantling the Corinthians' infatuation with human wisdom – the root of the division in the church. This human wisdom is time-bound and leads only to frustration and eventual destruction.

The Greek word for wisdom is *sophia* from which we get such English words as sophisticated. In the minds of these Corinthian Christians (sadly), the message of the Cross was not sophisticated enough.

Here in this section (**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**), Paul will show that there is real and true wisdom – “*Wisdom however we speak . . .*” is how Paul puts it in the Greek. Paul is not against wisdom (rightly defined and understood) and what he is proclaiming is not devoid of wisdom. The gospel is the wisdom of God. This wisdom is eternal and limitless. It leads people from darkness to light, salvation and glory. The work of the Holy Spirit is essential for man to understand the gospel.

DETAILED STUDY

1. What can we say about the wisdom that Paul proclaims?

➤ *Mystery*

➤ *Ordained*

➤ *Lord of glory . . . for our glory*

2. The mature understands the wisdom Paul proclaims. Who are they?

Who stands in contrast to the mature?

3. How does one understand the wisdom Paul proclaims?

Wrong way

Right way

4. Verse 10 says, "*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.*" How should we understand the revelation of the Spirit?

5. **Verses 14-16** contain the summary of this section. What is it saying?

- Natural man

- Spiritual man

- Mind of Christ

CONCLUSION

What's the message of this section? How is this section connected to the previous section and the problem of division in the church raised in **1:10-17**?