

Take-Aways for Small Group Leaders to Consider

Quotes & poetry:

“Such a scheme of salvation, in which God’s glory and man’s felicity should be equally secured, had never been seen, never heard of, nor could any mind but that of God have conceived the idea of so vast a project; nor could any power but his own have brought it into effect.” - Adam Clarke

Regarding 1 Cor. 2:9 - “These words have been applied to the state of glory in the future world; but certainly belong to the present state, and express merely the wondrous light, life, and liberty which the Gospel communicates to them that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ in the way which the gospel itself requires. - Adam Clarke

“Another way to put Paul’s point is that the truth about God is revealed not through philosophy but through prophecy, not through rhetoric but through revelation. The ‘deep things of God’ (v 10) are not arcane Gnostic trivia; rather they are the secret saving purposes of God for the whole world, now laid bare by the Spirit’s disclosure that the wisdom of God is made known through the cross.”- Richard B. Hays

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.

Let the presence of the risen Lord come renew my heart and make me whole.

Cause Your Word to come alive in me. Give me faith for what I cannot see;

Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.

Love enough to cover every sin in each thought and deed and attitude.

Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.

Turn my strivings into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made,

Show Your power once again on earth. Cause Your church to hunger for your ways.

Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice,

That in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

-Keith & Kristin Getty

Pastor Jim’s sermon outline/notes

- The challenge to Paul’s ministry
- Paul’s challenge to look at the world differently
- Understanding God’s secret wisdom – from God’s teacher (the Holy Spirit)
- Having the Spirit vs. living in the Spirit

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's sermon. What is the mind of Christ, and how does one gain access to it?

INTRO TO THE TEXT:

In this passage, Paul is reminding the Corinthians that he preaches God's wisdom, not worldly wisdom. The focal point of the gospel message is Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God's plan for our redemption even before he created us. This wisdom is only obtained through the Spirit of God. Believers can now understand this message because they have the Spirit of God, which is the mind of Christ, but it still remains hidden from unbelievers, who consider it foolishness.

READ 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. How did the "wisdom of this age" fail "the rulers of this age"? And what is their fate? What is the other wisdom Paul describes?
2. Verse 9 loosely quotes Isaiah 64:4. To what is this referring? Preparations in this life or the life to come? How do we know? (Hint: verse 10).
3. Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. Discuss the ideas of "God's secret wisdom" and "the deep things of God." How is the Trinity involved in this master plan?
4. How does Paul compare "the spiritual man" to "the man without the Spirit?" Who are they?
5. Again, Paul quotes prophecy (Isa 40:13) in verse 16. What is the answer to Isaiah's question?

A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Wrenched out of context, this can be a confusing passage. We must remember from earlier in the letter that Paul is attempting to combat division in the Corinthian church by reinforcing the singular, unifying message of the gospel. Paul is likely using the literary device of irony to further drive home his point about unity within the church. The Corinthians were obsessed with the latest philosophical fads surrounding wisdom and spiritual maturity. They were

critical of Paul's straightforward approach to the simple message of Christ crucified. So he gives them what they want: he entices them with a secret, spiritual mystery that has been veiled since the dawn of time and then circles right back around to the basic truth of the cross! God, in His ultimate wisdom, laid a plan for our redemption. Christ, in His obedience, was rejected by the "rulers of this age" and crucified. The Spirit, in His omniscience, revealed the gospel plainly to the apostles. No longer is God's plan cloaked in the mysterious language of the prophets, but now the Spirit of God - the mind of Christ - is available to all who believe. With this gift also comes a burden: we can understand and discern many things in this world with the Spirit's help; but, like Jesus, the world of unbelievers will never fully understand us, our ways, or our spiritual language.

APPLY

1. How does "the word of the cross" (i.e. the wisdom and power of God) impact your life and conversations (2:6-10a)? Do you reflect on the saving and sustaining power of the cross personally? How do you bring it up naturally when counseling friends? Answering honestly, is the cross of Christ your only hope and source of confidence or do you trust in other things?
2. The person and work of the Holy Spirit is vital in our relationship with the Trinity (2:10b-13). How do you seek/have you sought insight from the Holy Spirit? Is there something currently you are seeking insight about?
3. We will never know the mind of God, but we have been given "the mind of Christ" (2:16). How can you cultivate this? Read Philippians 2:5ff. Where do you need to grow? Who can help keep you accountable in this area?

MEMORIZE 1 Corinthians 2:16

Do you have the mind of Christ? Are you spending enough time in his Word to truly become like him, to be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Roman 12:2)? Read and reflect on Philippians 2:5-11 for more insight. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you align with the mind of Christ and manifest His character in your life.

Suggestions for further reading: *Interpretation: First Corinthians* - Richard B. Hays