

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 2:1-9**.
- B. At Corinth, men had begun to mix their own opinions and misunderstandings with the true gospel. This was causing confusion and division within the body.
- C. Paul explains three very important fundamentals about the gospel as he begins his letter.
- D. This morning, it's back to the basics.

I. THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST (1Cor. 2:1-5).

- A. No doubt itinerant philosophers and teachers depended on their wisdom and eloquence to gain followers. The city of Corinth must have been filled with such "spellbinders."
- B. Paul glorified the cross of Christ in his preaching, not himself (1Cor. 1:17; Gal. 6:14).
- C. Preaching can be:
 - 1. Performance. Using only one's natural talents.
 - 2. Explanation. Something of human wisdom and philosophy.
 - 3. Demonstration. Legal proof as would be given in court.
- D. Paul wanted to know nothing except JC and Him crucified. That was the core of Paul's theology. Without the work of X in our behalf nothing else matters (1Cor. 15:1-4).
- E. FAITH should never be grounded in men's opinions or lifestyle. FAITH comes from the Word (Rom. 10:17), and the power of God (Mk. 16:20).

II. THE WORK OF GOD (1Cor. 2:6-9).

- A. Salvation was purchased by the Son, but it was planned by the Father.
- B. No wise scholar or prince could ever invent or discover this marvelous wisdom that Paul shared from God. Who would ever think up such a plan?
- C. Take the story of Joseph for example... God used some strange things to save the world from famine. A forgetful butler, eleven envious brothers, an unbelieving captain of the guard, an understanding jail keeper, and an unfaithful baker all played a part.
- D. Many I'm sure thought that Calvary was God's great defeat; but it turned out to be God's great victory and Satan's great defeat!
- E. This wisdom is:
 - 1. Not of men. Simple and profound at the same time.
 - 2. A mystery. That which is yet to be revealed (by the apostles).
 - 3. Predetermined. Nothing was hasty or left to chance.
- G. Verse 9 is often used at funerals and applied to heaven, but the basic application is » the Xian life today. God's plans are so wonderful for us that our minds cannot begin to conceive or comprehend them. The OT quote is from Isa. 64:4 where Judah is awaiting God's deliverance from Babylonian captivity.

III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1Cor. 2:10-16).

- A. In this next section Paul speaks of four things the HS does as part of the gospel:
 - 1. The Spirit searches.
One cannot discern the mind of God through wisdom or philosophy. The mind of God must be revealed. The HS searches the deep things of God and reveals them through the apostles.
 - 2. The Spirit indwells.
The apostles have received this Spirit, who has the very wisdom of God. The apostles were baptized in the HS which gave them this knowledge.
 - 3. The Spirit teaches.

Jesus promised the apostles that the HS would teach and guide them into all truth (Jn. 14:26; 16:13). The spiritual thoughts of God are put into spiritual words for our understanding and learning.

4. The Spirit matures.

Xians begin to view (appraise, judgments) life from a spiritual point. The world cannot judge us in this way. We begin to view things like Jesus does, and therefore have the mind of X.

- B. The HS has a definite role in the gospel. He raised X from the dead (Rom. 1:4), inspired the apostles to preach all the truth (Ac. 2:111), indwells each believer who responds in baptism (Ac. 2:38), and puts one into the body (1Cor. 12:13).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The entire Godhead is busy helping with the gospel message. This gets us back to basics, fundamentals of the gospel.
- B. To review:
1. The work of the Son... was to die and purchase our salvation with His blood.
 2. The work of the Father... was to plan with great wisdom how this salvation was to be.
 3. The work of the Spirit... was to help Xians learn and mature by the apostles inspiration.
- C. Are you ready to respond to the Father, Son and the Spirit?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.