

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2:1-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

NOT OF THIS WORLD – PART 1

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Salvation, Righteousness, Heaven, Encouragement

1 Corinthians 2:1-11

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you **the testimony of God**. :2 For I **determined** not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. :3 I was with you in **weakness**, in **fear**, and in much **trembling**. :4 And my speech and my preaching *were* not with **persuasive** words of human wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, :5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men **but in the power of God**. :6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. :7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained **before the ages** for our glory, :8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. :9 But as it is written: ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*** :10 But God has **revealed them** to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit **searches** all things, yes, **the deep things** of God. :11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

NOT OF THIS WORLD

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER?

1.) Jesus Christ - Not of This World

v. 1-5

1a.) We trust in His message

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you **the testimony of God**. :2 For I **determined** not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**.

The Greek World, though educated, got lost in Mythology & Religion
Men would become gods and they would race across the heavens in epic battles. They would sometimes “affect” the mortals on earth.

Acts 14:11-13

Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” :12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. :13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, **did not come** with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you **the testimony of God**

2 Corinthians 11:3

I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ**.

2 For I **determined** not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**.

The Redundancy of Paul

He played the tune over and over again until it rang inside them

“I made it my chief decision, I decided to say the same thing.”

“To make a show of no other knowledge than this, to preach nothing but the gospel of the cross, the gospel of Jesus Christ that is: in his person and office, Jesus Christ is the sum and substance of that gospel”

“And so ought to be the great subject of the gospel minister’s preaching. His business is to display the banner of the cross, and invite his listeners to gather under it.” – *Matthew Henry*

Paul is Saying This – I didn’t show off or demand respect or try to impress you.

2 Corinthians 10:10

“For they of me that “his letters are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”

But what does “**trusting**” look like?
and what does it mean to **trust** in His message?

NOT OF THIS WORLD IS WHERE JESUS CHRIST IS

1b.) We lean upon His faithfulness

:3 I was with you in **weakness**, in **fear**, and in much **trembling**. :4 And my speech and my preaching were not with **persuasive** words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**,

What does it mean to lean upon His faithfulness?

When I find myself “leaning” unconsciously against something - There has to be a lot of assurance in that something - to start leaning on something or someone.

Paul looked for and recognized that

(1) God had truly done a work in his life. (2) He had come to know the reliability of the Bible for himself. (3) he then saw the faithfulness of God in other people’s lives - - as the word went forth.

Romans 8:38-9:1

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 9:1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

1c.) We rest in His power

:5 that your **faith** should not be in the wisdom of men **but in the power of God**.
“your **faith**”

I want to ask you something.

What are you being faithful at for the Lord Jesus Christ Today?

What have you been faithful at in your life for God’s glory?

We need His power, every Christian has His power, the proof and evidence of His power in our Christian life is being revealed right now...

Acts 1:6-8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" :7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

NOT OF THIS WORLD

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

2.) God's Wisdom - Not of This World

v.6-10

2a.) His wisdom makes us complete

:6 However, we speak **wisdom** among those who are **mature**, yet not the **wisdom** of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. :7 But we speak the **wisdom** of God in a **mystery**, the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained **before the ages** for our glory, :8 which none of the rulers of this age **knew**; for had they **known**, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

However, we speak **wisdom** among those who are **mature**, yet not the **wisdom** of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

Mature

te ÷ leiob teleios, tel'-i-os;

to complete, the transference of information resulting in completion and or making something absolutely and totally whole.

John 15:5-9

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. :6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned :7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. :8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. :9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

7 But we **speak the wisdom** of God in a **mystery**, the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained **before the ages** for our glory,

wisdom

sofi ÷ a sophia, sof-ee'-ah;

a higher spiritual wisdom. a wisdom from above or beyond us.

hidden ajpokru/ptw **apokrupto**, *ap-ok-roop'-to*;
to conceal away, to keep under wraps or hidden from view

mystery musth/rion **musterion**, *moos-tay'-ree-on*;
something not “naturally seen” or “easily observed”

Colossians 1:26-28a

the **mystery** which has been **hidden** from ages and from generations, but now has been **revealed** to His saints. :27 To them God willed to make **known** what are the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles: which **is** Christ in you, the hope (*assurance*) of glory. :28 Him we preach,

Mystery is the Gospel proclaimed, which is understood only by divine revelation.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the **mystery** of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh,

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are **foolishness** (*for they are folly, meaningless or nonsense to him; and he is incapable of knowing them*) to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

A heavenly wise man

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

A worldly wise man

Jude 19

These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

Known = (*if they had the wisdom of God – they couldn't have condoned the killing God*)

There are things which people would not do if they knew the wisdom of God – **that He is the work of redemption.**

GOD'S WISDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

2b.) His wisdom opens our understanding

:9 But as it is written: ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*** :10

But God has revealed them to us **through** His Spirit. For the Spirit **searches** all things, yes, **the deep things** of God.

Eternity / Heaven / The Presence of God

The information, the knowledge is not available through human means.

Isaiah 64:4

For since the beginning of the world *Men* have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

Isaiah 25:9

And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this *is* our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This *is* the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

John 14:2

In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

10 But God has revealed them to us **through** (*by, or by or in or around = like the flow of electricity*) His Spirit. For the Spirit **searches** all things, yes, **the deep things** of God.

Ephesians 3:7

of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. :8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, :9 and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

2 Corinthians 4:6

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. :7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

NOT OF THIS WORLD

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

3.) Life's Meaning - Not of This World

v.11

3a.) The meaning to life cannot be found within us

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

There's a God-Appointed "Stamp" in the Mind & Heart of Mankind;
>>> To Think thoughts of Wonder about His Existence <<<

It is within man - the ability to recognize his need, his detachment from God = a sense of separation – a grouping for meaning

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

3b.) The meaning to life cannot be found outside us

Romans 6:21-23

What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! :22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. :23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Restaurant Menu and What You Get

(have you ever been at a restaurant and looked at the menu and liked nothing that was offered? – or better yet, after you have eaten at a restaurant, left still hungry?)

We Cannot Be Satisfied by What The World Has For Us

Ephesians 4:17-19

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. :18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. :19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

THE MEANING OF LIFE IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

3c.) The meaning to life can only be found in Him

The *Holy Spirit's* "Omniscience"

That is; The *Holy Spirit* is attributed with possessing perfect knowledge of all things. *He searches all things, even the deep things of God*

Colossians 1:15-16

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. :16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

The Invitation & Challenge

What Do We Need To Do Church? Get Out!

End of Study