

e. To our glory. It is glorious to know that the universe exists by the power of God with a view to man. But man exists with a view to glory! This is the grand end and objective of the Lord for this wisdom! He moves toward a society of intelligently free people, perfectly holy, made capable of reflecting His glory. They will enjoy filial communion with the Father and fraternal union with the Son. All His particular plans are subordinate to this one grand goal. To understand things from this viewpoint is the wisdom of which Paul speaks. It is this wisdom of God, long withheld from human capacity which is now at length unveiled to mankind in the Gospel of the Cross of Christ. Hallelujah.

CONCLUSION: Who really gets hold of these truths? The Word specifies. It is those who are shown to be "perfect." This word does not obviously mean those who are without sin. Rather, it has reference to those who are mature. They are no longer infants. They know something of the maturity that there is in Christ. Paul therefore states that when he is in the midst of folks who are mature, he is free to set forth the treasures of wisdom contained in the Gospel. All others fail to see the true values as they ought to be seen. How do you view matters? As a mature person or one attached to the sophia of the world? Amen.

## BOOK OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

"The Lord of Glory"  
I Corinthians 2:6-8

### Introduction

1. Wisdom is much sought after today. Indeed, the hearts of men are bent toward being wise and to such an extent that they might eliminate the Son of God from their plans and designs.

2. Paul has practically murdered the wisdom of this world. Its fleshly connections have been more than he could possibly endure. He has turned from it unto the Lord Himself.

3. But this has not relieved him from the concept of wisdom entirely. For in spite of all that he has written, he does speak of wisdom! It is an antithesis to worldly wisdom, but it is certainly a complement to what has been indicated in the preceding passage.

4. The word, "wisdom" is primary in the section of this study for it appears first in the verse (v. 6). It is the essential word and in a sense the summary of all he wants to write about. The small word, "howbeit" is used in a restrictive sense rather than adversative. Paul wants to make certain that folks are not misled in thinking that the Cross is not a wisdom; it is!

5. This wisdom is spoken. The verb chosen here has purpose attached therewith. It denotes communications. Not preachings necessarily, but a justification of the manner of his ministry at Corinth.

6. How this wisdom is described and detailed is the content of the passage. Mark these ways of description:

#### 1. NEGATIVELY.

Three major items are mentioned in this connection:

a. Not of this world. The term employed for world suggests the idea of transitoriness. This wisdom is not attached to that which is of this fleeting age, but of an enduring character (cf. 1:20).

- b. Not of the princes. Here is an interesting word--princes. Some have considered this to be the demons. Others have taken it as a reference to the Evil One Himself. Many have thought it is a reference to the Greek philosophers. Its significance is rather to those who directed the affairs of both Jews and Gentiles of the day, such as the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate. They took part in the execution of the Divine Plan without even suspecting it.

It should be noted that the Spirit of God levels His personal evaluation of this conclave of persons. He notes that they are coming to naught (present participle). They are going through a slow death. Let it ever be remembered that these "princes" of the world will end up in a heap of ruin! They are in the process now (cf. 1:18).

- c. Not known. The Greek verb here marks an important truth. It is the perfect tense. It implies a process and therefore could be translated: "has come to know, won the knowledge of...." The sense of the verb might be given as "acknowledge." Who did not do this? The same rulers as are given earlier in the passage (v.6).

The manifestation of their lack of acknowledgement is given in the word, "crucified." This dastardly act of the rulers gave evidence that they had not won the knowledge of HIM! And Who is He? The answer is: the Lord of Glory. What a Name. The term, "crucified" indicates the lowest degree of humiliation and suffering whilst the title just mentioned speaks of that which is exactly opposite. It is a title which notes the entire grandeur of the incarnate Lord, whom the world's wise and great sentenced to the Cross. The word, "glory" marks the characterizing quality of our Lord. The disciples saw it (John 1:14) and believers now

experience it (Rom. 8:29), albeit they shall fully partake in the future (II Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:21).

### 3. POSITIVELY.

Several specifications are mentioned concerning this wisdom from the positive side.

- a. Of God. The genitive case used with the noun, "God" notes the origin and the possession of the wisdom. Here is something which is heavenly in character. The taint of earth has not fallen upon it. Although the person and work of Christ are actually in view here (cf. 1:18, 21), it is well to compare this portion with another account of wisdom (James 3:15-17).
- b. A mystery. This has reference to the fact that the truth of our blessed Lord and His work were not heretofore revealed, but now are. It is wisdom, therefore, which is of a non-revelatory character. It is truth which the human mind cannot of itself discover, but it apprehends when the Lord gives the revelation of it! Paul so uses the word elsewhere of truth not made known, but then manifested (cf. Eph 3:4; Rom. 11:25; I Cor. 15:51). Of our wonderful Lord, it is used in a manner similar to the present (I Tim. 3:16).
- c. Hidden. The thought here is an addition to that expressed in the word, "myster," for it marks the thought of "time" to that of "manner" already given. God could have revealed it much earlier, but it pleased Him to keep silence about it for a long period of time (cf. Rom. 1:20).
- d. Ordained. This verb means to "work out by limit" or "to decree." It has a prefixed preposition meaning "before" and a phrase which does not appear in our AV "before the ages." All of this points to the eternal decree of God. Hence, this wisdom moves right back into the corridors of eternity prior to the decree of creation!