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1 Corinthians 2
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By Dan Maines

1 Corinthians 2

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come as someone superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

† Paul rejected the Greek obsession with rhetoric and philosophy, choosing instead the simplicity of Christ crucified.

† The cross, despised by the world, is the center of the gospel.

† Justin Martyr (First Apology 13) noted how the cross was mocked, yet it was the true power of salvation.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

I also was with you in weakness and fear, and in great trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God.

† Paul's humility and weakness highlighted God's power.

† Faith rests not on human eloquence but on the Spirit's demonstration.

† Tertullian (On the Resurrection of the Flesh 3) declared that the weakness of the apostles displayed the strength of God.

1 Corinthians 2:6-7

Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away, but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory.

† God's wisdom is hidden from the world but revealed to the mature in Christ.

† The rulers of that age, including Jewish and Roman powers, were already passing away.

1 Corinthians 2:8

The wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood, for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

† The blindness of worldly rulers led to Christ's crucifixion.

† Ironically, their attempt to destroy Him fulfilled God's plan.

† Josephus (Antiquities 18.3.3) noted how rulers failed to

recognize true righteousness, aligning with Paul's point.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But just as it is written: "Things which eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the human heart, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

† God's promises surpass human imagination.

† Isaiah 64:4 forms the foundation of Paul's quote, showing fulfillment in Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among people knows the thoughts of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also, the thoughts of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.

† The Spirit alone reveals God's wisdom.

† Spiritual truth is not discovered by human reasoning but revealed by God.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

† Believers are indwelt by the Spirit, who teaches God's wisdom.

† True teaching is Spirit-given, not man-made.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand

them, because they are spiritually discerned.

† The natural mind, unrenewed by the Spirit, cannot grasp God's truth.

† Only the Spirit enables discernment and understanding.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

† The spiritual person, guided by the Spirit, judges all things rightly.

† Believers share in the mind of Christ, gaining His perspective and wisdom.

† Origen (On First Principles 2.7) emphasized that sharing the mind of Christ meant living by the Spirit's wisdom, not human thought.

How it applies to us today

† 1 Corinthians 2 reminds us that the gospel is not about human eloquence but the power of Christ crucified.

† God's wisdom is revealed by the Spirit, not discovered by human intellect.

† The church must rely on the Spirit for discernment, rejecting worldly philosophies.

† In Christ, we share His mind, which enables us to live faithfully and wisely in a world blind to God's truth.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Justin Martyr, First Apology 13 - mockery of the cross

† Tertullian, On the Resurrection of the Flesh 3 - weakness of apostles as God's strength

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.3.3 - rulers failing to recognize

righteousness

† Isaiah 64:4 - unseen things prepared by God

† Origen, On First Principles 2.7 - the mind of Christ and spiritual wisdom

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