**1 Corinthians 2**

*Paul continues to express the importance of the gospel, stating his determination to rely upon it alone, and so influence them to do the same. He contrasts the mind of Christ with the “natural man” who cannot know or discern God’s will. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Reported Problems **(1:10-6:20)** *– “For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren…”* **(1:11)**.
   1. Division **(1:10-4:21)**.
      1. The nature of the message preached (*Continued*) **(2:1-16)**.
         1. Paul’s Preaching **(v. 1-5)**.
            1. He did not try to persuade the Corinthians with human wisdom or rhetoric, but with the message of the cross **(v. 1-2)**.
            2. His countenance was humble. He relied upon the revelation of the Spirit, and its power **(v. 3-4)**.
            3. He did this so their faith would be in God, not in himself **(v. 5)**.
         2. Wisdom Paul Speaks **(v. 6-16)**.
            1. Wisdom of God **(v. 6-9)**.

Wisdom which does not come from men, but was established before creation and hidden until now **(v. 6-7)**.

This wisdom was so hidden that even rulers with all their resources did not know. Because of this ignorance they killed Jesus **(v. 8-9)**.

* + - * 1. Revealed by the Spirit of God **(v. 10-13)**.

Wisdom revealed by God through His Spirit, for only His Spirit knows **(v. 10-11)**.

Apostles and Prophets receive the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual things **(v. 12-13)**.

* + - * 1. Received by the spiritual man **(v. 14-16)**.

Those who are not guided by divine revelation *(“natural man”)* do not understand spiritual things. Therefore, he cannot rightly judge, for true judgment comes from God **(v. 14-15)**.

The natural man’s judgment of the spiritual man becomes judgment of God. The Apostles and Prophets can judge because they have the mind of Christ **(v. 16)**.

*Questions on the back.* 🡪

**Questions**

1. What is Paul’s *“weakness,”* and how does it strengthen his explanation of the gospel message? **(v. 3)**
2. Who are the *“we”* **(v. 6-7, 12-13, 16)** and the *“us”* **(v.10)**? In what way can that refer to us today?

**Another Question to Consider**

The Calvinist will interpret *“the natural man”* **(v. 14)** in light of their doctrine of illumination – a man is not able to believe without God operating directly on his heart (illuminating him). Thus, *“the natural man,”* they say, cannot understand because God has not allowed him to. Why is this inconsistent with Paul’s argument beginning in **1:18** and continuing through **chapter 2**? Who is the natural man?