

1 Corinthians 2:1-16
THE CHURCH NOW....

REAL WISDOM FROM GOD

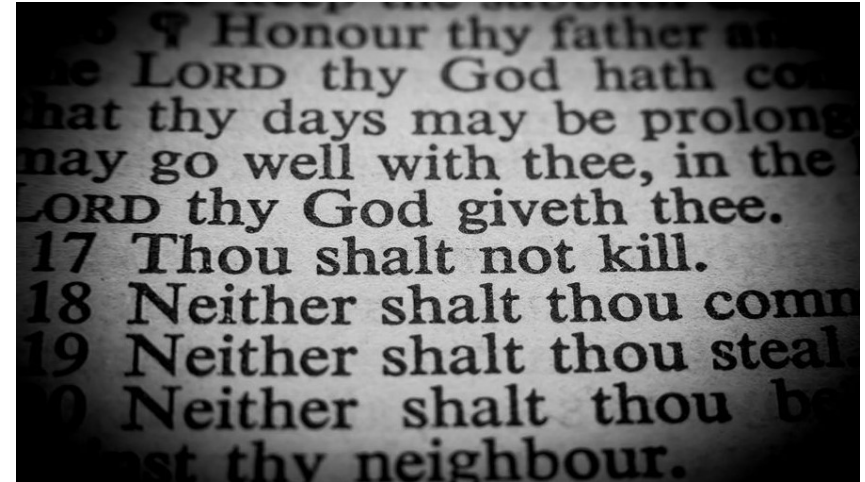
When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God. Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to

teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

1. Paul's _____ on God's wisdom
 - a. How Paul _____ to the Corinthians (v1-4)
 - i. _____ I first came to you
 - ii. There was no use of _____ or _____ speech
 - iii. Paul's _____ to forget everything outside of the _____
 - iv. He arrived full of _____
 - v. Paul didn't use _____
 - vi. He _____ on the power of _____
 - vii. Paul showed the _____ of the need to rely on the _____ (v5)
2. Paul preaches _____, not the _____ of _____
 - a. God's _____ wisdom is not _____ by this current time (v6-8)
 - i. Yet, he does speak words of _____
 - ii. Only amongst the _____, who can _____
 - iii. The rulers of the _____ and _____ cannot, and _____, understand

AM I FOLLOWING JESUS?

- b. God's _____ is known only by the _____
(v9-11)
- Paul will paraphrase _____
 - No mere _____ mind can understand the things _____ has given us
 - The _____ things of God are beyond our own _____ to discover
 - These things must be _____ to us
- c. _____ can we _____ this _____?
(v12-13)
- By _____ God's _____
 - Using the _____ to explain _____
- d. The _____ man and the _____ man
(v14-16)
- _____ people cannot hear or receive the _____
 - He who is _____ can _____ all things
 - Who can know the _____ of the _____? _____ those who have the _____ and _____ of Christ



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