

A9 BIBLE STUDY: I CORINTHIANS #2

Scripture of Lesson: I Corinthians 2: 1~16

Corinth was a key city in southern Greece in the first century. The Greeks sought knowledge more than anything. But the knowledge they were seeking were based on human knowledge. Their mythology is full of Greek gods who were very much human with human emotions, desires, conflicts and shortcomings. In this chapter Paul emphasizes that the gospel he preached was only the crucified Christ, who embodies the wisdom of God.

1. Only the crucified Christ: v. 1~5

Just as in verse 1: 23 Paul re-emphasizes that the gospel he preached was about the crucified Christ only, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God (1: 24). To him *“the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (1: 25).”*

Paul reminded that the manner of his preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and of the power of God because the gospel has the power of God of converting people from their dark past into the light of Christ.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. [Rom 1: 16]

This is a somber principle in all evangelical work that the power of God must be demonstrated together with the presence of His Spirit when preachers go out with the gospel. Otherwise, all human effort stays in the wisdom of men [v. 5] and not in the power of God. Paul wanted to make sure the faith of the Christians at Corinth is solidly grounded in the power of God so that God could work without inhibition in their lives and the Spirit's work of sanctification could proceed well. When hearing of problems of this church such as of division, quarreling and immorality, Paul's foremost desire was to ensure the faith of these people be placed back on the solid foundation of the crucified Christ so that God's power could be in and amongst them. [v. 5]

2. God's wisdom vs. human wisdom: v. 6-16

In v. 7 Paul refers to the mystery as *“the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.”* Then he paraphrases the mystery in v. 9 as

*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. [Isaiah 64: 4]*

Isaiah was keenly aware that the mystery “wisdom of God” was not revealed to everyone but only to those who love Jehovah God. And Paul states that Paul himself, as the chosen apostle of Christ, was now revealing this same mystery, which has been made known fully according to the dispensation of God, through the gospel of Christ. That is why when people accepted Christ as their Savior when they hear the gospel, the power of God comes into their lives and the Spirit of God, who searches even the innermost part of God (v. 10), makes the wisdom of God known to true Christians.

But to those people who do not love God and remain depraved in their natural state [v. 14] the gospel that preaches the crucified Christ is only foolishness to them, nor can they know the truth of God because they do not have the spirit of God in them.

I'd like to point out the stark differences between God's wisdom and the human wisdom using the topic of creationism and the evolutionism. Today many unbelieving educated people believe that Darwin's evolution theory as well as the Big Bang theory are true. Many educated Christians even say they believe in God but as for the

evolution of species and the earth history and geology they must believe in the explanations. More and more scientific evidences point to the “scientific truthfulness” of the Biblical account of creation and earth history, and more and more falsehoods in the evolution theory and in scientific archeology and geology are found that discredit the claims of these academic disciplines. True believing Christians must never be swayed by the false and unfounded claims and beliefs of the scientific community that espouse the evolution theory and the big bang theory. They are only theories and form a non-theistic [godless] belief system, which in fact is a religion against God.

Some of the scientific evidences that support the Biblical creation and earth history are briefly summarized here:

1) There has not been a single evidence of evolution from one species to the next higher species.

2) The Second Law of Thermodynamics, which is an established natural law of science, states that all matters transition from the total entropy [degree of disorderliness] increases over time in any closed system. This corresponds to the Biblical explanation of continued human depravation since Adam. So, how can a single cell organism such as an amoeba move into a highly intellectual, sophisticated species as human being over time against this natural law? One is an established law and the other is only a conjecture, a theory that contradicts with the established scientific law.

3) The intensity of the magnetic field around the earth is decreased every 1200 years, according to a recognized scientific study. If the earth age were half a million years, the calculated intensity of the magnetic field would be too great to allow any living things to exist. Approximate age of the earth according to the Bible is 6,000 years and the magnetic intensity in the early years of the earth history would have been several times of the present level but not unbearable. In fact, it may have had some beneficial effect to enable people to live long.

4) Numerous findings support Noah’s great flood. The excavated fresh carcasses of Mammoths in Siberia and their fresh stomach contents point to a sudden change in climate pattern due to the flood, which must have removed the water layer in the sky, thus turning the Polar Regions to sudden freezing zones.

5) Salt Lake of Utah points to the fact this area was a part of the ocean during the flood but the water somehow did not flow out due to the geography of the area.

6) Marine fossils found in numerous high altitude geologic layers point to the great sea water level reaching such depths during the great flood.

7) The average rate of the world population growth has been calculated as about 0.5% per year by scientists. If we apply this growth rate to the eight people of Noah’s family who lived about 5,000 years ago, we get about 5 billion people, which is what we have now. However, if we apply the rate to the half million years according to the geologists’ theory, the number is so great that the whole earth is not big enough for all of us to stand next to one another.

We live in an enlightened era when the truth of God can be proven to be true through numerous discoveries and scientific proofs to help the unbelieving such as the doubting Thomas.

Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” [John 20: 27]

Let us be wise as Paul exhorts in this chapter and not fall prey to the humanistic, rationalistic godless foolishness that has swayed the western world since the 18th century. It is about time that we shed this foolishness from our society and from our minds but time to put on the “mind of Christ” [v. 16].