



1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Becoming truly spiritual

Paul has set out to show the Corinthians the brilliant 'wisdom' of Christ crucified. A message that seems so foolish and unappealing, stands at the very heart of God's purposes. God chooses to show his greatness by destroying human wisdom via the humble, messy, shameful cross of his own son's death. The Corinthians needed to be gripped once again by God's choosing apparent weakness to overcome the strong. The cross is the last thing anyone would have come up with as the key to life the universe and everything – and that's the very point. God doesn't do things our way. The outcome is that no human boasting will ever be heard in the courtyards of heaven. Now we take a look at the role of the Spirit in revealing the wisdom of God in the cross.

Read 1 Cor 2:1-16

- 1. No first century debater or orator would easily reveal fear in weakness. Why wouldn't they and what's the reasoning behind Paul's admission? What is unusual about Paul's ministry methods? (vv 1-5)**
- 2. What was Paul's focus while he was in Corinth? (v2) By presenting the gospel in such a way, what was his desire for the the faith of the Corinthians? (v5)**
- 3. In verses 6-9, why is true wisdom not understandable to the 'rulers of this age'? Why did God keep such wisdom hidden?**
- 4. How does this help us better understand God's sovereign plan in the events of cross?**
- 5. From verses 10-13, how can we understand why some people can have great clarity and understanding of the gospel, while others mock it as stupidity?**

- 6. In these verses, what is the role of the Spirit? How does this help us understand the necessity of the Spirit?**

- 7. How do vv12-13 help us understand why Paul approaches things in such a different kind of way?**

- 8. In verses 14-15, we see that unless a person has the work of the Spirit in their lives they will dismiss the things of God as foolishness. How does this impact the way we approach doing ministry at Stromlo and in particular 'evangelism'?**

- 9. In verse 16, Paul says that we have the 'mind of Christ', what do you think he means by this? Why might he finish this section by pointing us to what we have in Christ?**

- 10. If Stromlo church is to be a truly 'spiritual' church what sorts of things ought we to be characterized by? What things ought we emphasize?**

- 11. How is a healthy prayer life a reflection of a dependency on the Spirit of God?**

- 12. Reflect on and thank God for the way the Spirit has revealed to us the wisdom of God in the gospel. Praise him for giving us the mind of Christ and pray that by his Spirit this can continue to be an ongoing occurrence.**