

Soli Deo Gloria

1Co 2:6-13

We Are Truly Wise

God's hidden wisdom is true wisdom

It is revealed to us by the Spirit

Intro: Confucius. Socrates. Copernicus. Newton. Curie. Einstein. Hawking. Those are the names of some of wisest people both past and present. Yet we are wiser than all of them. Even if you are still only in grade school; even if you just have a high school education; even if you have just a college degree you are wiser than them. You and I are wiser than even the wisest people of our world because we have true wisdom. We have God's wisdom. We know Jesus Christ as Savior. Paul lets us know that We Are Truly Wise. 1) God's hidden wisdom is true wisdom and 2) It has been revealed to us by the Spirit.

I. God's hidden wisdom is true wisdom (6-9)

A. Worldly wisdom comes to nothing

1. worldly wisdom
 - a. MIT / Harvard / Oxford
 - b. these are names of schools renowned for learning, scholarship, and wisdom
 - c. that's how our world defines wisdom
 - d. wisdom is the accumulation of much head knowledge and facts
 - e. wisdom is stuff published in books, stored in libraries, and on hard drives
 - f. wisdom is making medical advances in a laboratory
 - g. wisdom is stretching technological boundaries
 - h. man's idea of wisdom is what he is able to do with what is in his brain
2. comes to nothing
 - a. but this is not true wisdom
 - b. Paul states that worldly wisdom and its proponents are **"coming to nothing"**
 - c. that one Greek word translated 'coming to nothing' actually speaks of something being idle, inactive, or inoperative – it can also speak of a seed occupying the ground uselessly
 - d. worldly wisdom is impotent and it is powerless
 - e. because it cannot lead a person to God or to his Savior
 - f. and, therefore, it cannot give peace to a guilty conscience
 - g. or rescue a person from death
 - h. or give a person eternal life
 - i. while worldly wisdom has its place and has its benefits for sure
 - j. it is not true wisdom

B. God's wisdom

1. the plan of salvation
 - a. only God's wisdom is true wisdom
 - b. because it leads to glory
 - c. when Paul speaks of God's wisdom
 - d. he is speaking of God's plan of salvation
 - e. how God from eternity planned that he would sacrifice his only Son to save sinners
 - f. and that those who believe in him would receive glory
 - g. the glory of heaven along with its joy and perfection
 - h. the ability to see God as he is
 - i. and the privilege of being like God

- j. God's wisdom is Jesus Christ the God-man, his cross, and his empty tomb
- k. (1Co 1:23,30, **"...but we preach Christ crucified...the wisdom of God...and later in the same chapter he will speak of...Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption."**)

2. a secret, hidden wisdom

- a. but this wisdom is **"a secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden"**
 - b. in the Greek Paul calls God's wisdom a mystery
 - c. when we think of a mystery, we think of a puzzle or riddle for which a person needs to find a solution – think of a murder mystery or the board game Clue
 - d. but that is not at all what the Greek word pictures
 - e. the Greek term mystery means that something that is hidden from man
 - f. which man will never be able to figure out unless it is revealed to him
 - g. God's plan of salvation through the crucified Christ is a mystery
 - h. it is totally outside the scope of the human mind and imagination
 - i. even the most gifted mind could not conceive of the God-man, the cross, and the empty tomb and salvation through those things
 - j. Paul quotes the words of Isaiah to prove his point
 - k. **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."**
 - l. that God's wisdom is secret and hidden, that it is a mystery
 - m. was exemplified by those who crucified Jesus
 - n. and by all those who have and continue to reject Jesus Christ as Savior
- Trans: God's hidden wisdom is true wisdom. But if it's hidden, how can anyone find it?

II. It is revealed to us by the Spirit (10-13)

A. Spirit is a competent Revealer

1. God is unsearchable to human beings
 - a. as my thoughts are known only to me
 - b. and I alone can reveal how I truly feel, think, and plan
 - c. so God's thoughts and plans and will are known only to him
 - d. and he alone can reveal what he truly feels, thinks, and wills
 - e. God is unsearchable to human beings
 - f. so God's hidden wisdom must be revealed to human beings by someone or something
 - g. this revelation happens through the Holy Spirit
2. Spirit knows God
 - a. this revelation by the Holy Spirit is possible
 - b. because the Spirit **"searches...the deep things of God"**
 - c. because the Spirit is God, the Spirit has a thorough, intimate, comprehensive knowledge
 - d. of all that God is, all that God does, and all that God wills and plans
 - e. and, because the Spirit has this knowledge of God and his plans
 - f. the Spirit is able to reveal God's hidden wisdom-the plan of salvation-to human beings

B. Through Scripture to us

1. the Bible
 - a. the Spirit does so by **"expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words"**
 - b. that's Paul's way of talking about Scripture
 - c. the Spirit uses the words of the Bible, his own words, to reveal the mystery of salvation to human beings
 - d. to make them truly wise

e. **(2Ti 3:15, "...the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation...")**

2. Spirit made us wise

- a. thank God for the work of the Spirit, the Revealer of God's hidden wisdom
- b. the often overlooked work of the Spirit in the plan of our salvation
- c. were it not for the work of the Spirit
- d. you and I would still be ignorant fools
- e. without a knowledge of the true God
- f. without a knowledge of Jesus as our Savior
- g. not possessing salvation and glory
- h. but, instead, being damned to hell
- i. **(1Co 2:14, "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.")**
- j. but, thankfully, the Spirit has made us wise through the Scripture
- k. through the Scripture, especially through the message of Christ crucified
- l. the Spirit has brought us to faith in Jesus
- m. and given us the sure and certain hope of glory
- n. the joy and perfection of heaven
- o. and the privilege of seeing God as he is and being like him forever!
- p. **(Ps 19:7,8, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.")**

3. showing our thanks

- a. through the words of Scripture, the Spirit has revealed our Savior to us
- b. rescued us from eternal damnation and given us eternal glory
- c. for this blessing and so many others we will show our thanks to God
- d. empowered by the gospel that saved us and that has given us a new Christian life
- e. we will show our thanks to God
- f. by living a life that is in line with God's will revealed to us in the Scripture
- g. by giving back to God a generous, growing, proportionate part of our income
- h. so that our Synod can continue to make people wise through faith in Jesus
- i. and by supporting St. Matthew generously with our time and talents and money and prayers
- j. so that it can continue to be a place of learning for those who do not yet know Jesus as their Savior
- k. and a place of continuing education for those who are already wise and who desire to grow in their wisdom

Concl: Because of the work of the Spirit you are truly wise my friends. Thank God for that wisdom. Show it in how you live. And grow in it daily.