

Having The Mind of Christ

2017 Mark Beard

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (NIV)

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"¹⁰— the things God has prepared for those who love him— ¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.¹⁴ ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Illustration: An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?" There was no response. He moved a little closer and said again, "Honey, can you hear me?" Still, there was no response. Finally, he moved right behind her and said, "Honey, can you hear me?" She replied, "For the third time, Yes!" – <http://saltforsermons.org.uk/category/alpha-course-jokes/how-does-god-guide-us/>

God is often accused of not responding to our prayers or speaking to us. More often, it could be that we lack the spiritual mind and sensitivity to hear and understand Him.

Whatever we face, when we need to know the mind of God, the answer can be found through possessing a spiritual mind. This is the only way to know and understand the things of God.

I. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, hidden truths are revealed.

II. We must learn to think with a spiritual mind and not just the natural mind.

III. There are four truths to help us reorient our thoughts

1. We have received the Spirit of God to lead us in understanding
2. We must learn to speak as the Holy Spirit leads
3. We must accept those the truths given through the Word of God
4. We must learn to discern spiritual truth in all things

Conclusion

In the old television detective series, *Columbo*, viewers were always told at the beginning of each show who had carried out the crime. Then the fun began as Columbo set about finding the criminal, unearthing information that the viewers already possessed. Watching Columbo was different from the experience of watching other mystery shows. If truth has already been made available to you, that necessarily affects your life experience and the choices and decisions you will make. As Christians, we have the opportunity to live life having been told ahead of time about truths that are hidden from the world. What we believe about life essentially informs and influences how we live and how we make decisions. The information we have about life is the basis on which we make our way in life. –Steve Zeisler, “A Secret and Hidden Wisdom” (1 Cor 2:6-

16): <http://www.pbc.org/library/files/html/4061.html>

Paul has declared that true wisdom is cross-centered and Spirit-directed. It is available to you today if you will merely adopt the right perspective and the right power.