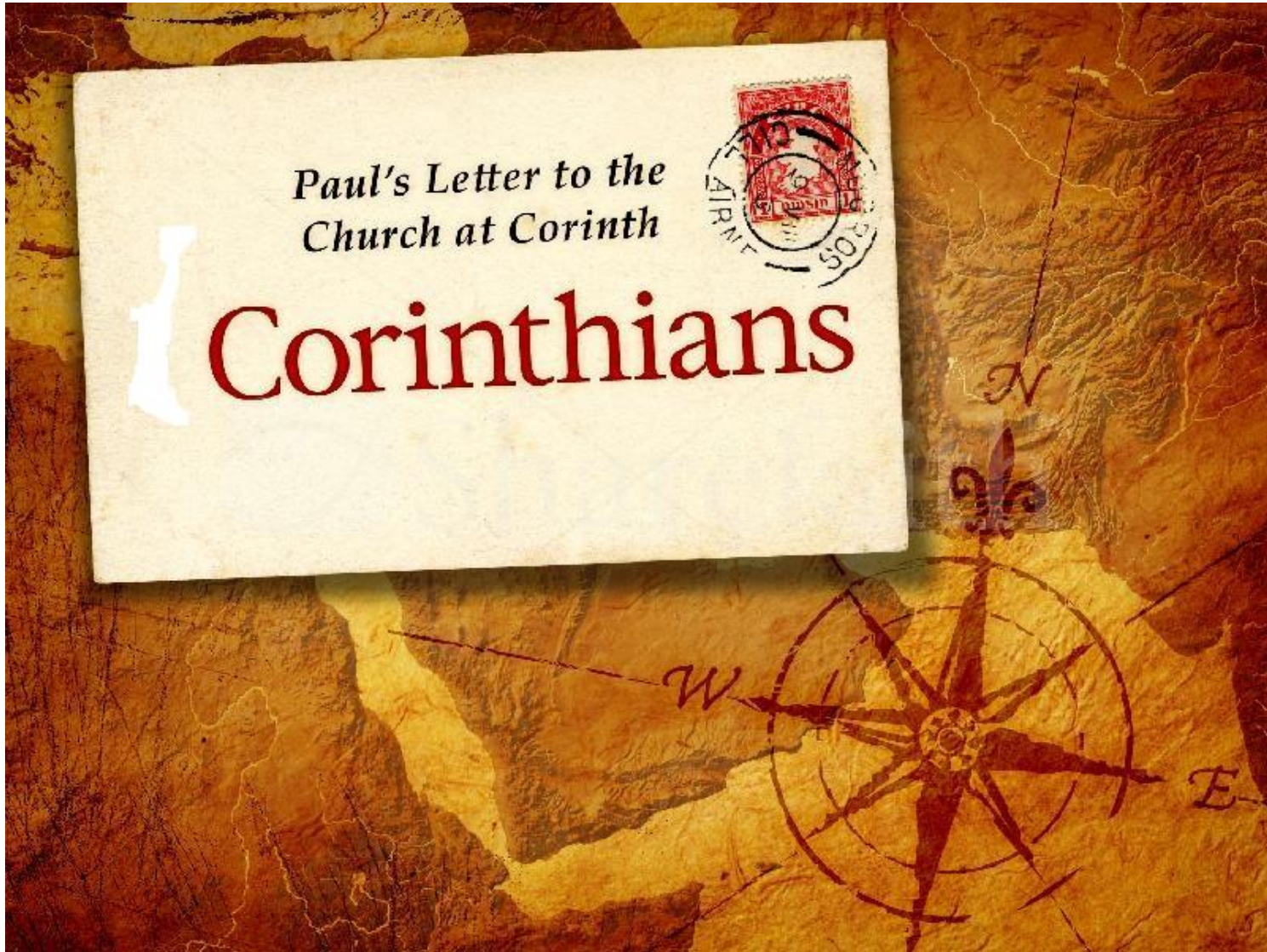


1 Cor. 2:7-9 God's Wisdom: How Do We Receive It?



Today's Outline*



The Problem of Division Addressed 1:13 to 4:21

1. Unity by the Person and Work of Christ 1:13-17
2. Unity by Considering the True Nature of the Gospel 1:18-25
3. Unity by Viewing the Membership of the Church 1:26-31
4. Unity by Considering the Nature of True Wisdom 2:1-3:4
 - a. Paul's Preaching: Its Content and Method 2:1-5
 - The Nature of Paul's Preaching 2:1-4
 - The Purpose of Paul's Preaching 2:5
 - b. True Wisdom: Its Content and Source 2:6-3:4
 - Where True Wisdom Is Not Found 2:6-9
 - Where True Wisdom Is Found 2:10-13

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,



my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom

What was Paul's message and preaching ?

² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

persuasive - *peithos* - from the word to persuade;
persuasive, winning

wisdom – *sophia* – human wisdom

1 Cor 2:13a which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit,

⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.



but* in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

demonstration – *apodeixis* - "a pointing out" (*apo*, "forth," *deiknymi*, "to show"),

of the Spirit - the Holy Spirit

of power - *dynamis* - spoken of God, the great power of God

- John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Also see John 16:14

* in strong contrast

⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.



so that (with a purpose that) **your faith**

would not rest – the verb “rest” is *eimi* - the state in which someone continuously exists (present, subjunctive, active)

- therefore **your faith** should not continuously exist (rest) in the wisdom of men - but this may happen
- **but your faith** should continuously exist (rest) in the power of God
- The contrast involved here is not between the wisdom of men and the wisdom of God, but rather between the wisdom of men and the power of God.

McCalley

5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.



but (rest) on the power of God

The point here is that as we walk by faith in the truth of God's word, we trust God to carry out what He has promised (a demonstration of God's power).

- John 14:3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
- John 11:25b --- he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?
- Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of rulers of this age, who are passing away.



but we speak wisdom among the mature Interlinear

we speak* wisdom - *sophia* – speaking of God’s wisdom

mature - *téleios* - meaning full-grown in mind

- Paul is speaking of a spiritual mature person.
- A person mature in Christ will accept God’s wisdom.
- All Christians are “mature” in the sense that they have come to terms with the message of the cross. Constable
- The teaching that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died a death wherein the guilt and penalty of man’s sin was placed on Him, making it possible for salvation to be extended to those who believe in Christ. McCalley

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of rulers of this age, who are passing away.



Paul contrasts God's wisdom with the wisdom of this age.

age – *aiōn* - the present world, with its cares, temptations, and desires; the idea of evil, both moral and physical, being everywhere implied – Gal 1:4 --- present evil age

God's wisdom is:

1st - **not of this** (present) **age**

- God's wisdom is eternal.
- The wisdom of this age is the sum total of man's learning that differs from God's word. McCalley
- examples: evolution, mother nature, abortion ---

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of rulers of this age, who are passing away.



God's wisdom is:

2nd - nor of the rulers of this (present) age

rulers - *archon* - a ruler, chief, prince

- the rulers here are ones who do not know Christ since they are passing away

3rd- **who (rulers) are passing away**

passing away - *katargeō* - to cease, to be done away
(present, passive) – continuous
action in the present

who (rulers) are in the process of being liquidated

Wuest

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;



but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery

but – *alla* - in strong contrast

we speak - *laleō* - meaning to teach, preach, used in an absolute sense – continuous action

God's wisdom (*sophia*)

in a mystery - *mystērion* – some work or purpose of God hitherto unrevealed

before in verse 6 it said:

but we speak wisdom among the mature

- believers are able to speak God's wisdom (Scripture)

7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;



but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery (cont.)

God's wisdom is not some kind of abstract thinking because Paul says he *speaks* it, which means God's wisdom comes to us through the vehicle of human language (Scriptures – Greek and Hebrew) McCalley

the hidden wisdom

- emphasizes the fact this was not revealed until Christ came
- The message of the cross is a further unfolding of God's plan and purpose beyond what He had revealed and what people had known previously. Constable

⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;



the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

- God predestined this wisdom to be hidden.
- predestined - *proorizō* - to determine or decree beforehand
Eph 1:5a He predestined us to adoption as sons
- when used in connection with God it speaks of a thing being decreed*
 - the wisdom of the cross was decreed in eternity past
 - but the man not knowing Christ calls it foolishness
 - also God decreed salvation before there was sin



⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

no one of the rulers of this age has known [God's wisdom]

Interlinear

rulers of this age - rulers* of the present world, with its cares, temptations, and desires

has known - *ginōskō* - to come to know, recognize, understand (know of experience)
perfect tense

- The rulers of this age did not know God's wisdom in the past and continue not to know God's wisdom into the present.

* ruler, chief or prince 16

⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;



for if they* had understood it [God's wisdom]

1 Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

they* would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

The rulers of this age (whether understood as political or religious figures ---) demonstrated their ignorance of divine wisdom when they crucified the Lord of glory. Constable

⁹ but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



This verse surely has been misunderstood.

It has gone to a funeral too many times.

“Here lies dear Mr. So-and-So. His remains are here before us. In this life he didn’t understand too well, but now he is in glory and he understands all things.”

J. Vernon McGee

⁹ but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



but – *alla* – in strong contrast

even as it has been written

- past completed action with abiding results
- Isa 64:4 For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You. Who acts (works and shows) in behalf of the one who waits for Him.
- the ear or the eye were not how they came to know God (But God's Spirit working on their behalf)

⁹ but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."

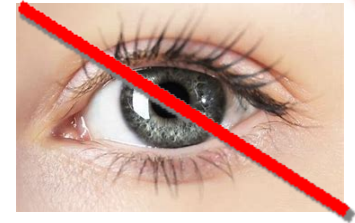


things which **eye** has not seen

things – the details of God's wisdom

has not seen – a past point fact! – not future

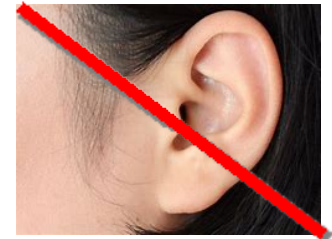
- eye has not seen these things (God's true wisdom)



(things which) **ear** has not heard

has not heard - a past point fact – not future

- ear has not heard these things (God's true wisdom)



⁹ but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



which (things) have not entered the heart of man



have not entered – past point fact – not future

- these things (God's wisdom) have not entered man's heart (mind or intellect) by his own effort
- true wisdom cannot be found in [man's] research

McCalley

- God message of the cross never entered the mind of man. God has revealed it through His word.

⁹ but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."



God prepared “the things” for the ones loving him.

prepared - *hetoimázō* - of God, to prepare, to destine, to appoint - past point fact

- God prepared the things in the past.
- These things are part of God’s wisdom.
- Man cannot discover these by the eye gate, ear gate, or by his intellect .
- The “things” can only be known by God revealing them through the Spirit (verse 10).

Final Thoughts*



It is stated [in verse 9] that God has prepared certain "things" for them that love Him—things which are not gained by the eye, the ear, or the heart. This negative declaration concerning the eye, the ear, and the heart is abundantly sustained in the following verse [verse 10], where it is asserted that these specific "things" are revealed unto us by the Spirit.

* L. S. Chaffer