

WISDOM 1 Cor. 2:4 – 2:7

Intro:

Wisdom- **σοφία** (sophia) occurs 51x in N.T-

- The ability to use knowledge for correct behavior, insight, understanding, Friberg.
- The capacity to understand and, as a result, to act wisely, Louw-Nida

The Believer in this Dispensation has a new potential to understand and apply grace revelation in order to grow by grace.

1. The indwelling Holy Spirit, cf. 1 Cor. 2:12
2. A quality of the mind of Christ, cf. 1 Cor. 2:16.

I. Wisdom of the Age

An age is a period of time in which God is revealing something about His character to created beings through activity or through contrast to the activity of others. God the Son made and framed the ages, cf. Heb. 1:2, 11:3.

- A. This age is unique in that Believers possess eternal life and have the potential to manifest it. Cf. Mk. 10:30; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.
- B. Satan is allowed to be the god of this age, 2 Cor. 4:4.
- C. The wisdom of this age opposes God's provisions for the maturing of His saints, 1 Cor. 2:5-7.
- D. This age spreads its corruption, Gal 1:4.
- E. This age is marked by debating as the accepted method for discovering truth, 1 Cor. 1:20.
- F. A Believer can misdirect Love for the age, cf. 2 Tim 4:10.

II. Wisdom of the World

The world system is the controlled structure that functions throughout every society. It includes: human government, commerce, education, amusements, and senseless warfare.

- A. Satan is the prince (ruler) of the world system, Jn. 14:30.
- B. Satan devised the world system to control unsaved mankind, 1 Jn. 5:18-19.
- C. The world system has its own wisdom that assumes a person can define how to experientially know God, 1 Cor. 1:18- 21.
- D. The world system values philosophy, scholarship, and debate, 1 Cor. 1:20.
- E. World system wisdom considers the crosswork of Christ to be foolishness, 1 Cor. 1:18, 23-24.
- F. The wisdom of the world system is foolishness with God, 1 Cor. 3:19-20.
- G. A Believer can misdirect Love toward the world system, cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17.*

*Additional Scriptures that relate Age and World: Eph. 2:2; Titus 2:12. Both, the present age and world system, are related to Satan and both influence people.

III. Wisdom of Men

- A. The wisdom of man emphasizes rhetoric, the art of using language, to illicit a desired response, cf. 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:1-4.
- B. The wisdom of man encourages self reliance, 1 Cor. 2:5.
- C. The wisdom of man teaches contrary to the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 2:13.
- D. The wisdom of man is of no value against the indulgence of the flesh, Col. 2:20-23.
- E. The wisdom of man is useless for the Christian Life, cf. James 3:13-15.
- F. Fleshly wisdom is contrary to the grace of God, cf. 2 Cor. 1:12

IV. Wisdom of God

- A. Paul speaks the wisdom of God by a mystery, 1Cor. 2:6-7
 - 1. A mystery is a truth hidden in the Old Testament but revealed in the New Testament, cf. Rom. 16:25-26, Col. 1:26.
 - 2. Paul was a steward of the mysteries From God, 1 Cor. 4:1-2. (He revealed 12 in his epistles).
 - 3. This wisdom was given to Paul, cf. 2 Pet. 3:15.
 - 4. This wisdom is for the maturing of saints, 1 Cor. 2:6
- B. The wisdom from above, in contrast to other forms of wisdom, provides the basis for a Believer to live above the Sin Nature, be filled by the Spirit, and to act right before God, James 3:13-14, 17-18.

Conclusion

A.

B.

C.