

THE WISDOMS OF SCRIPTURE

Part 4

Man's Wisdom

1st Co. 2:1-16

INTRODUCTION

- I. THE APOSTLE PAUL WARNED THE CORINTHIANS ABOUT “WISDOM FROM MEN” 1st Co. 2:5
 - A. “Man’s wisdom” is a term that is only used in the 2nd Chapter. 1st Co. 2:5
 1. The word for “man” is the Greek word “anthropon” which is used in Scripture of mankind -- humanity.
 2. Man is a term used of humanity -- ***the unbelieving world of men who are operating apart from God and his wisdom for how life works, and have established their own.***
 - a) The term is used to describe that which is of human origin. Cf. Matt. 21:25 (the baptism of John); 1st Tim. 2:1 (communication is to be made for all); 1st Tim. 4:10 (Christ the Savior of all)
 - b) The term is used of God being God over all of mankind. Acts 17:25
 - c) The term is used of secular men. John 1:4 (Christ was the light to); Rom. 2:16 (God will judge)
 - d) The term is used of religious men. John 12:42 (the chief rulers loved the praises of) Lk. 9:44
 - B. Wisdom can be defined as “***the possession of exalted knowledge and to the ability to express that knowledge in a powerful and rhetorically eloquent way.***” (Mitchell; Pogoloff).
 1. There is a wisdom concerning how to function in the world system.
 - a) God gave to wisdom to Joseph concerning the administration of his master’s affairs and the how to handle the drought prophesied for Egypt. Gen. 39:3; Acts 7:10
 - b) Moses learned from the wisdom of the Egyptians. Acts 7:22
 2. There is a wisdom concerning how to conduct one’s manner of life.
 - a) Solomon dispensed a wisdom to his sons based upon his life experiences under law. Cf. Prov. 1:20-31
 - b) The wisdom of the world, age and from man are operating in the world to teach men how life works. Cf. 1st Co. 1:20; 3:18-19; 2:5.
 - c) God provides a wisdom for maturing saints. 1st Co. 2:6

3. There is a wisdom concerning God's plan and purposes. Rom. 11:33; Eph. 3:10; 1:17

II. MAN'S WISDOM IS DISTINCT FROM GOD'S WISDOM IN ITS DISTRIBUTION AND CONTENT AND TEACHER.

A. Man's wisdom "teaches" its dogmas. 1st Co. 2:13

1. "Teach" is didaktois -- is used in Scripture of *that which conveys truth from God through teaching*. cf. 1st Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:24 (of the pastor teacher); John 6:45 (by God)
2. The use of "in" (instrumental) noting the means by which one used to teach. of man's wisdom is designed to "teach"

B. Paul makes clear the distinction between the teaching of "Man's Wisdom" and "God's Wisdom".

1. Man's wisdom verbalizes its wisdom by means of enticing words. 1st Co. 2:5, 13
 - a) "Enticing" is from the Greek verb peitho -- *that which convinces one upon the basis of debate and rhetorical devices or emotional appeal*. Cf. Acts 21:14 (of the believers trying to persuade Paul to stay); 26:28 (Agrippa almost persuaded by Paul to be a Christian)
 - b) "Words" is logos in the L.I.D. case noting the words are the instrument by which one is convinced. Acts 7:22 (Moses was skilled in the use of words of the Egyptians)
 - (1) The Lord chided the Scribes and the Pharisees due to the fact that they were teaching for practice the commandments of mankind. Cf. Matt. 15:9
 - (2) Paul warned Titus of those in Crete who were teaching fables and commandments of men that turn men from seeing things the way they really are. Tit. 1:14
 - (3) Paul warned the Colossians the use of words alone. Col. 2:8
 - (a) "Philosophy" -- a fondness for the wisdom of man. Cf. Acts 17:18; Col. 2:22 (included injunctions to avoid)
 - (b) "Vain deceit"
 - (i) "Vain" is "kenos" which is the word for "empty, vain, devoid of truth". -- Joseph Thayer cf. Gal. 2:2 (of running a race without a point)
 - (ii) "Deceit" -- that which gives a false impression of what is real. Cf. Matt. 13:22 (of riches); Eph. 4:22 (of lusts); 2 Thess. 2:10 (a result of unrighteousness)
2. God's wisdom verbalizes its wisdom with words from the Holy Spirit. 1st Co. 2:4

- a) Paul's "speech" -- the articular use of logos is used in Scripture to note a *discourse; doctrine*. Cf. 1st John 2:7; 2 Thess. 3:1; Tit. 2:5 (of the discourse from God)
- b) Paul's "preaching" -- is kerugma -- deals with **the act of preaching; the oral presentation of the Word; proclamation**. Cf. 1st Co. 15:14; 2 Tim. 4:17; Tit. 1:3
- c) The apostle's speech and preaching were not in the enticing words of man's wisdom.
 - (1) Paul's preaching was "in a demonstration of the "Spirit" -- the anarthorous use of spirit is used 96 times in the New Testament and is used on several occasions for the Holy Spirit. Cf. Acts 2:17 (of prophecy to pour out on all flesh); 2 Co. 3:18 (by which the believer is being transformed)
 - (2) Paul's preaching was in "Power" -- the word "dunamis" the operating system for the Grace Believer, produced by the Spirit operating in he/she. Eph. 1;19; 3:7 Cf. Acts 6:8 (exemplified in Stephen); 2 Co. 13:4 (produces power for living); 2 Tim. 2:1 (place where it is access is "in Christ").

C. The teaching from the Spirit differs from the teaching of man's wisdom.

- 1. The Word of God trumps the word of men. 1st Thess. 2:13
- 2. God's wisdom is wiser than man's. 1st Co. 1:25

CONCLUSION