

THE WISDOMS OF SCRIPTURE

Part 6

The Wisdom From God

Part 2

The Mystery of God's Wisdom

1st Co. 2:7

INTRODUCTION

- I. GOD'S WISDOM FOR MATURING SAINTS IN THIS DISPENSATION WAS HIDDEN IN PAST DISPENSATIONS. 1st Co. 2:7
 - A. A mystery is described in Scripture as information that was "hidden" in the past.
 1. The word mystery (musterion) is used 22 times in the Authorized Version -- not once in the Old Testament.
 2. "Hidden" is from the Greek word apokrupto -- which means **to conceal; prevent from being made known; to hide or veil something for the purpose that it not be made known.** -- K.D.J. Matt. 25:18; (of a thing literally hidden); 11:25 (of the truth concerning the Kingdom from the Heavens)
 - B. Mysteries are seen in Scripture as being "hidden" from two sources.
 1. It was hidden from "the ages" -- ages are periods in God's decree in which he is revealing something to rational creatures by comparison or contrast. Cf. Heb. 11:3 (God framed them); Eph. 2:7 (God uses them to demonstrate)
 2. It was hidden from "generations" -- a period of time encompassing the maturation from childhood to adulthood from one group of men to another. -- Eph. 3:5; Col. 1:26
- II. GOD ORDAINED HIS WISDOM FOR THE GLORY OF THE GRACE BELIEVER. 1st Co. 2:7
 - A. The word "glory" is the Greek word "doxa" which is used in Scripture to indicate **the expression of an opinion in a demonstration of physical power; a demonstration of spiritual power in routine activities of life or the manifestation of outward splendor.** -- K.D.J. cf. John 2:11 (of physical power); Matt. 4:8; Acts 22:11 (of splendor); 2 Pet. 1:3 (believers called to a quality of)
 - B. The word "unto" is the Greek preposition "eis" which is used with "glory" twelve times in the accusative case in the New Testament.

1. It is used to indicate the glory of God. Rom. 15:7; 1st Co. 10:31; 2 Co. 4:15; Phil. 1:11; 2:11
2. It is used to indicate believers manifesting the glory of God.
 - a) Jesus suffered to bring many sons "into" a quality of glory. Heb. 2:10
 - b) God's wisdom revealed provides for the believer to experience that glory. 1st Co. 2:7 (used in a causal sense)
 - c) The believer is transformed as he matures from one quality of glory into another quality of glory. 2 Co. 3:18
 - d) This glory will be on display in the future. Rom. 8:18

III. CONCEALMENT OF GOD'S WISDOM AFFECTED THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE RULERS OF THE AGE. 1st Co. 2:8

- A. There are rulers over the present evil age. Vs. 8
 1. The word "princes" is the word archontes is used of those who are in authority over a thing. Cf. Matt. 20:25 (of the political rulers of the Gentiles); Matt. 2:6 (of the rulers of Israel)
 2. The rulers over the age are seen throughout the Old Testament.
 - a) Spirit beings are organized to run God's creation, both good and bad.
 - (1) The angels who run God's program are seen as the "sons of God". Job. 1:6
 - (2) The "sons of God" present themselves before God to get their assignment. Job 1:6
 - b) They are seen in the book of Daniel.
 - (1) They are called "watchers" in the book of Daniel. Dan. 4:13; 17
 - (2) They are called "holy ones". Dan. 4:13, 17
 - c) They are operating behind the scenes affecting things occurring in time.
 - (1) They can affect the decision making process of leaders. 2 Co. 18:20-21
 - (2) They operate in an attempt to thwart God's plan and purposes. Dan. 10:12-13
- B. The rulers of the age did not have an understanding of God's plan for maturing saints due to its lack of revelation. Vs. 8
 1. Paul uses a relative pronoun -- which -- referring back to the hidden wisdom from God.
 2. "None" emphasizes that not one of the rulers knew it.
 - a) The word for "knew" is epiginosko (aor. Act. ind.) which notes information that has grown to the point of understanding. Cf. John

16:3 (of ones not knowing the Father); Rom. 3:17 (of the men not understanding the way of peace)

- b) The use of experiential knowledge indicates the possibility that they may have known the facts about God's plan.

C. An understanding of God's plan for maturing saints in this dispensation would have changed the strategy of the rulers of this age. Vs. 8

- 1. If the rulers had "known" God's wisdom for this dispensation (but they didn't)

- a) "Known" is *epgnowsan* -- (aor. Act. ind.) which means to be dearth of crucial information that impacts one's decision making process. Cf. Matt. 24:39 (Those in the days of Noah didn't know the flood was coming); Lk. 20:19 (The chief priest and scribes wouldn't lay hands on Jesus because they knew the parable was spoken about them)

- b) Paul raises the fact that the spirit beings working to incite the crucifixion of Christ did not know that God had goaded them into doing it.

- (1) It started with Judas. Cf. John 13:26-27

- (2) It continued with the rulers imploring Pilate to crucify Him. John 18:29-31

- 2. They would not have crucified the Lord (from) glory.

- a) Some commentators believe this refers to the Jewish rulers.

- b) Paul notes that it was the rulers of the age who influenced the Jewish rulers. Cf. Eph. 2:2 (there are rulers of the age who are influencing things in the world)

CONCLUSION