

We will begin our second lecture on 1 Corinthians. /During our last lecture, I emphasized the word of the cross. /The word of the cross is the truth of believing in Jesus Christ. /However, it is folly to those who perish. /To us who have received salvation, it is the power of God.

/We will start at verse 20.

/Verse 20. Let us read. /Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

/In Greek, “The one who is wise,” in the verse refers to philosophers. / “Scribe” refers to Jewish scholars who are like scribes. / “Debater” in Greek refers to the orator. /In human eyes, scribes and debaters appear to be without sin, /but to God, they are nothing.

/The verse asks the question, “Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” /Human wisdom and knowledge cannot understand the word of the cross, which is God’s wisdom. /With human wisdom, we cannot believe in Jesus.

/Human wisdom and knowledge is foolish. /The knowledge of the law that the scribes bragged about /goes against the wisdom of God, the word of the cross. Therefore knowledge of the law is foolish.

/Verse 21. /For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

/The verse says, “Folly of what we preach.” /It is saying that the truth of the cross appears foolish in the eyes of the people of the world. /However, God rejoiced in spreading the truth to save sinners.

/The wisdom of every human being who is descendant of Adam has become dark, and because the soul is dead, no one in their wisdom can know God. /For this reason, God gave us the truth of the cross. /God rejoiced in saving man through the truth of the cross. / This is the wisdom of God.

/Verse 22 says, / “For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom.” /Jews demanded signs and believed that Christ would come. /However, they had the mindset of demanding for signs.

/To satisfy their desires, the Jews sought after signs and wonders. /Even today, we have mystics who love signs, much like the Jews did. /How were the Greeks? /The Greeks sought wisdom.

/They demanded philosophical and theoretical wisdom. /In today’s Christianity, there are New Theologians who try to understand Christianity with human wisdom. /The Jews demanded signs and the Greeks sought wisdom, but it says we preach Christ who was nailed to the cross.

/Paul did not perform signs or speak words of wisdom, but he only preached the message of Christ. /Verse 23 says it is a stumbling block to Jews who follow signs. /Because the Greeks, who follow the wisdom of man, do not understand the redemption of the cross, it appears to be folly.

/It is the same today. /To mystics, those who preach the truth of the cross are stumbling blocks. /On the other hand, to the New Theologians who try to understand Christianity with the wisdom of man, it appears to be folly.

/Verse 24 says, / “But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” /Whether Jew or Greek, God must call them to believe in the truth of the cross for them to be saved.

/Salvation is never received through human wisdom or signs. /Whoever believes in the truth of the cross receives salvation. /Believing in the truth that Jesus died the atoning death on the cross and resurrected from the dead in three days is the way to salvation.

/Signs or the wisdom of man does not bring about the forgiveness of sins. /We cannot be at peace with God through these things. /The dead soul cannot come to life. /Therefore the word of the cross is the wisdom of God and the power of God.

/The power of God saves sinners, and it defeats sin, the world, the devil, and death. /The power of God is the power that makes us more like the image of God. /The wisdom of God is the wisdom of receiving salvation. /The wisdom of God is the wisdom of knowing God.

/Verse 25 says, / “For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” /What does “the foolishness of God” mean? /Can God be foolish or weak? /He can never be foolish or weak. /God is almighty. /He is not foolish or weak in any way.

/It means the works of God may appear foolish in the eyes of man. /It means the works of God may appear weak in the eyes of man. /However, God is wiser and more powerful than man.

/When Noah was building the ark, people thought him foolish. /But him doing so had more wisdom and power than that of man. /The truth of the cross appears weak to man. /The truth of the cross appears foolish to man. /But in reality, the word of the cross is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

/We will look at our fifth main point, which is “God called the weak.” /Verses 26-28.

/Verse 26. Let us read. /For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

/The verse says, “For consider your calling.” /This is talking to those whom God called to believe in Jesus as Savior. /It says that not many of them who believe in Jesus were wise. /Not many were powerful.

/Finally, it says not many were of noble birth. /The reason is people who are wise, powerful, and noble live to succeed and be glorified in the world. /In Matthew 11:25, Jesus says, / ““I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.”

/Many of the wise and understanding who attend today’s church walk on the wide road. /Believers who walk in the way of New Theologians and mystics are walking on the wide road.

/When believers live hand in hand with the world, they are walking on the wide road. /Believers who believe the Bible as it is walk on the narrow road. These believers are the minority.

/Verses 27-28. /But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.”

/Many of the people who believe in the truth of the cross are weak, low, and poor. /However, it says that these people believe in Jesus and have received the wisdom of God and the power of God.

/When someone enters in Christ, he becomes a person of wisdom. /In Christ the weak become powerful. /Believers! Do you remember? /Early in his life, David was a shepherd boy who raised smelly sheep.

/But God raised David up to be sovereign and king of Israel. /Whoever believes in Jesus will be lifted up by God and be better than the people of the world. /When this happens, the believer must not become proud.

/We must always, like a child, long for the word and follow the Lord alone. /We need to continue to walk the way of the cross. /Then we will be made into people with wisdom and power.

/Verses 29-31 are about “Boasting in the Lord.”

/Verses 29-30. /so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

/God chooses the weak and foolish because those who have wisdom and mastery in this world may think they are saved because of their successes. /That is why God chooses the weak and foolish to fulfill his work of salvation.

/When God does this, these people will think they are saved solely by the grace of God, and they will give glory to God. /No one will be able to boast in the presence of God.

/Someone who believes in Jesus is someone born from God. /His dead spirit has come alive. /This is regeneration. /Therefore whoever believes in Jesus is in Christ Jesus. /Believers, by law, are in Jesus.

/And we need to owe ourselves to Christ Jesus to depend on him as we live in him. /The verse says, “Who become to us wisdom from God.” /It means Jesus’s work of salvation came from God.

/That is how God makes Jesus our wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification. /The atonement of the cross of Jesus is the wisdom that gives us salvation, and it credits us as righteous and sanctified believers.

/Jeremiah 9:23-24 say this. / “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches.” /Man must not boast in anything.

/Verse 31 says, ““Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” / “Boast in the Lord” means to boast in the Lord alone. /We must not boast in Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or any other person. /Everything in the world belongs to the Lord.

/Everything that I have accomplished is the work of the Lord. /Paul confessed, “But by the grace of God I am what I am.” /Therefore we must boast in the Lord alone.

/We will continue with 1 Corinthians 2. /Verses 1-5 are about preaching in the Holy Spirit and in power. /Verses 6-12 are about knowing the wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit. /Verses 13-16 are about interpreting spiritual truths.

/First, preaching in the Holy Spirit and in power.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

/Here, the “testimony of God” refers to the gospel. /When Paul bore witness about the gospel, he didn’t do so with words or the beautiful things of wisdom. /He didn’t preach with eloquence or with philosophical theories.

/When he preached the gospel, he didn’t speak in eloquence or philosophically or with words that were pleasing to hear. /In other words, he preached without the wisdom of man. /We see the reason behind this in verses 4 and 5. /Please refer to it.

/Verse 2. /For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

/Only in the cross of Jesus Christ is redemption and life. /Paul decided to preach the cross of Jesus and nothing else. /Galatians 6:14 says, / “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

/Normally, the cross is an instrument used to crucify criminals. /Deuteronomy 21:23 says, “For a hanged man is cursed by God.” /Then how did Paul boast in the cursed cross?

/He boasted in it because through the cross, Paul was saved and received the forgiveness of sins. /Therefore he decided to preach the cross of Jesus alone. /Before he preached the gospel in Corinth, he preached in Athens.

/In Athens, Paul preached with philosophical words. /But he did not bear the fruits of preaching the gospel there. /Acts 17:16-34. /Thus he went to Corinth. He decided that he would preach nothing but the cross of Jesus Christ, and he did it.

/Paul bore the fruits of preaching the gospel in Corinth, and the church of Corinth was raised up. /There is no need for preachers to preach using philosophy, eloquence, or beautiful words. /If they do this, it covers the cross.

/People are saved from sin and receive new life only through Jesus Christ. /Because Jesus lived in Paul, the life of Jesus allowed him to work. /This allowed Paul to tell others about Jesus.

/He also got to know more about Jesus, receive more, and he tried to discover more. /Philippians 3:7-12. /The cross is the core of the Bible, the most essential thing. /The truth of the cross is the truth of salvation centered on Christ. /Therefore we need to properly interpret the Bible and correctly go forward with the truth.

/Verse 3. /And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

/Paul trembled as he tried to reveal the cross and nothing else when he preached. /If he made a mistake, Jesus Christ and the cross could have been covered. /When he preached, Paul sometimes could not say what he wanted to say.

/When people cursed at him as he was preaching, Paul listened to them curse. /He was also physically beaten. /He lived as Jesus had taught, to turn the other cheek when he was struck. /The truth is Paul is a Roman citizen.

/If he showed them his Roman citizenship, he wouldn't have been beaten or cursed when he preached. /If he showed his Roman citizenship, the Lord's cross may have been covered. /That is why he didn't use his Roman citizenship but preached the cross and nothing else from a lowly position. /This is the true way to win.

/Verses 4-5. /and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

/Paul wanted the faith of the believers in Corinth to rest in the power of God. /That is why he didn't use eloquence or philosophy or plausible words of wisdom. /He resolved to preach in the Spirit and the power of God.

/Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit as he preached with authority. /By the power of God, Paul preached. /Therefore Paul's preaching is the preaching of the Holy Spirit. /It is the preaching in power. /It is preaching in certainty.

/If pastors preach with the wisdom of man and with eloquent words, /then believers may follow those things, and we may cover the cross. /Whatever happens, we must work so that believers' faith stands in the word and in the power of God.

/In the place of worship, if the altar is decorated beautifully and if the ceremonies are splendidly carried out, /believers may be drawn to these things. /It may hinder their spiritual fellowship with Christ.

/In today's churches, there are many instances of using slides and movies. /Of course, these things may be used. /It may help believers understand the Bible more quickly. /However, they may be disturbances that prevent godly believers from entering the spiritual world and having fellowship with Christ.

/Hence pastors must focus on delivering the truth rather than drawing attention to other things. /Then believers will listen to the word, believe, and follow.

/When this happens, believers are comforted in the word, and they receive rest and true food. /Pastors must make it so that believers listen to the word and are held by the power of God.

/The second main point, which is in verses 6-12, is "Knowing the wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit."

/Verse 6. /Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

/We must not deliver the truth of the cross with the beautiful things of the wisdom of the world. /In the gospel is the wisdom of God. /The gospel is the wisdom of God and is the power of God.

/Paul said, "Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom." /Here, "the mature" are those who have grown up. /They are those who will know the wisdom of God. /Someone who is mature has completed the beginner's course.

/Therefore we can say that someone who has understood the truth of Christianity is mature. /The verse says, "Although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age." /God makes foolish the wisdom of the world.

/True wisdom is Jesus Christ. /Only Jesus is our wisdom and power. /The wisdom of the world or the wisdom of the rulers of this age will disappear in a little while.

/Verse 7. /But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

/The wisdom of God is a secret. /Before God makes it known to us, we cannot know it. /Colossians 1:27 says, /“The riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

/Christ is the wisdom of God, and he is the secret of God. /The reason is God prepared Christ, /he hid the secret, and at the appointed time, he revealed it and made it known. /God revealed the secret to us for our salvation and glory.

/Verse 8. /None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

/The rulers and famous people who do not believe do not know the secret of God. /The reason is God hid the secret from those with the wisdom of the world and those who are well versed. /Instead, he revealed it to young children.

/Verse 9. /But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

/This verse applies the word in Isaiah 64:4. /God prepared it for those who love him. /They are Jesus Christ, /the world of redemption, /God’s kingdom, and the right to be his children. /It also includes participating in his glory.

/We cannot see these things with our eyes. /We cannot hear these things with the ears of our flesh. /No matter how hard we study with our human wisdom, we cannot know these things. /Verse 10 tells us that God, through the Holy Spirit, shows us these things.

/God makes true wisdom known to us through the Holy Spirit. /Ephesians 1:17 says, “The Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.” /When the time was right, God sent Christ to redeem us, /and the Holy Spirit worked to bring us to believe in this amazing redemption.

/The Holy Spirit is God in the Trinity. /He has mastered the profound things of God. /Therefore, we have come to believe in and know Christ because of the Holy Spirit. /1 Corinthians 12:3 says that no one can say “Jesus is LORD” except in the Holy Spirit.

/The secret knowledge of God, something that cannot be understood with the wisdom of the world, is made known to us through the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit makes known to us God’s existence and his character. /That is why Paul’s letter to the Roman church says this.

/Romans 11:33 says, / “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” /Paul praised God’s amazing wisdom, knowledge, and the depth of his riches, /and he said God’s judgments are unsearchable.

/Verse 11. / For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

/ “A person’s thoughts” refers to man’s inward emotions, thoughts, and plans. /The spirit of a person knows best about his thoughts. /In this way, the Spirit of God comprehends the thoughts of God.

/We cannot know the truth of the cross with the wisdom of man, but God must make it known to us through his Spirit. /Verse 12 says, “Now we have received not the spirit of the world.” /Instead, we have received the Spirit who is from God.

/God gave us the Holy Spirit /to reveal to us his secret that he had hidden. /When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we received the Helper, the Holy Spirit. /This Holy Spirit always dwells in us.

/Someone who has received the Holy Spirit does not need to receive him again. /The reason is the Holy Spirit forever dwells in us. /We believers need to make an effort to receive the inspiration, guidance, and assistance of the Holy Spirit. Verse 12 says, “That we might understand the things freely given us by God.”

/The third point is “Interpreting spiritual truths.”

/Verse 13. / And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

/It says that Paul, when he preached, did not teach in words taught by human wisdom. /He only taught what the Holy Spirit had taught him. /What are the things taught by the Spirit? /It means teaching the word of God in the Holy Spirit. /When we preach the word in the Holy Spirit, there is life. /Without the Holy Spirit, we would not understand spiritual truths nor would we interpret them.

/Verse 14 says, /“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God.” /The natural person here is someone who is not born again. /The one who lives centered on the flesh does not receive the work of the Holy Spirit, does not understand, and appears foolish. /Only our spirits are able to know the truth of the gospel and interpret it.

/Verse 15. /The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

/There is the spiritual person. /The spiritual person enters the light and dwells in the world of light. /He knows about the Spirit of God, and he knows about the spirits of people. /He also knows the work of God and the work of the world.



/We come to know the source, purpose, and value of all things when we enter the spiritual light. /Therefore, it says the spiritual person is judged by no one. /Whoever enters the world of God knows God's heart, his law, and his character. /Whoever does this can judge all things. /Whoever does not enter this world will listen but never understand.

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/Verse 16. / "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

/It says that Paul had the mind of Christ. /When people are born, they naturally are born with dead souls. /Whoever does not believe in Jesus does not know the Lord's mind. /But when we believe in Christ, our spirits are regenerated. /Because the believer is born again in the word and the Holy Spirit, /he has the mind of Christ. John 3:5.

/We also are able to know the Lord and teach others. /We today are born-again Christians. /The Holy Spirit dwells in us. /He is a personal God.

/Also, "to be filled with the Holy Spirit" means to completely receive the guidance and assistance of the Holy Spirit. /The core of Paul's preaching was the preaching in the Holy Spirit, /preaching in power, /and preaching in certainty. /Paul saved many lives through these things.

/This concludes the second lecture on the books of Corinthians. /Thank you.