

The background of the slide is a dark grey, textured surface covered with numerous stars. Most of the stars are dark grey and have a subtle 3D effect, appearing to be slightly raised from the surface. Interspersed among these are several gold-colored stars, also with a 3D effect, which stand out prominently. The lighting creates soft shadows and highlights on the edges of the stars, giving them a metallic appearance.

Rewards

The Role of Good Works

1 Corinthians 2-3



The Path Ahead

Session 1 – The 3 Phases of Salvation

Session 2 – The Grace Basis for Spiritual Growth

Session 3 – Rewards – The Role of Good Works

Session 4 – Training for Reigning-Eternity with Christ

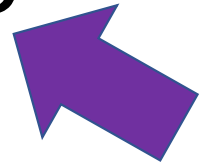
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Christ and Him Crucified

June 4, 2023

Outline

What Paul Didn't Do



What Paul Did

Why Paul Did It That
Way

Bringing the Gospel to Corinth

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God

2 I determined not to know anything but Jesus Christ and Him crucified

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

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom,

But in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 That your faith should be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God

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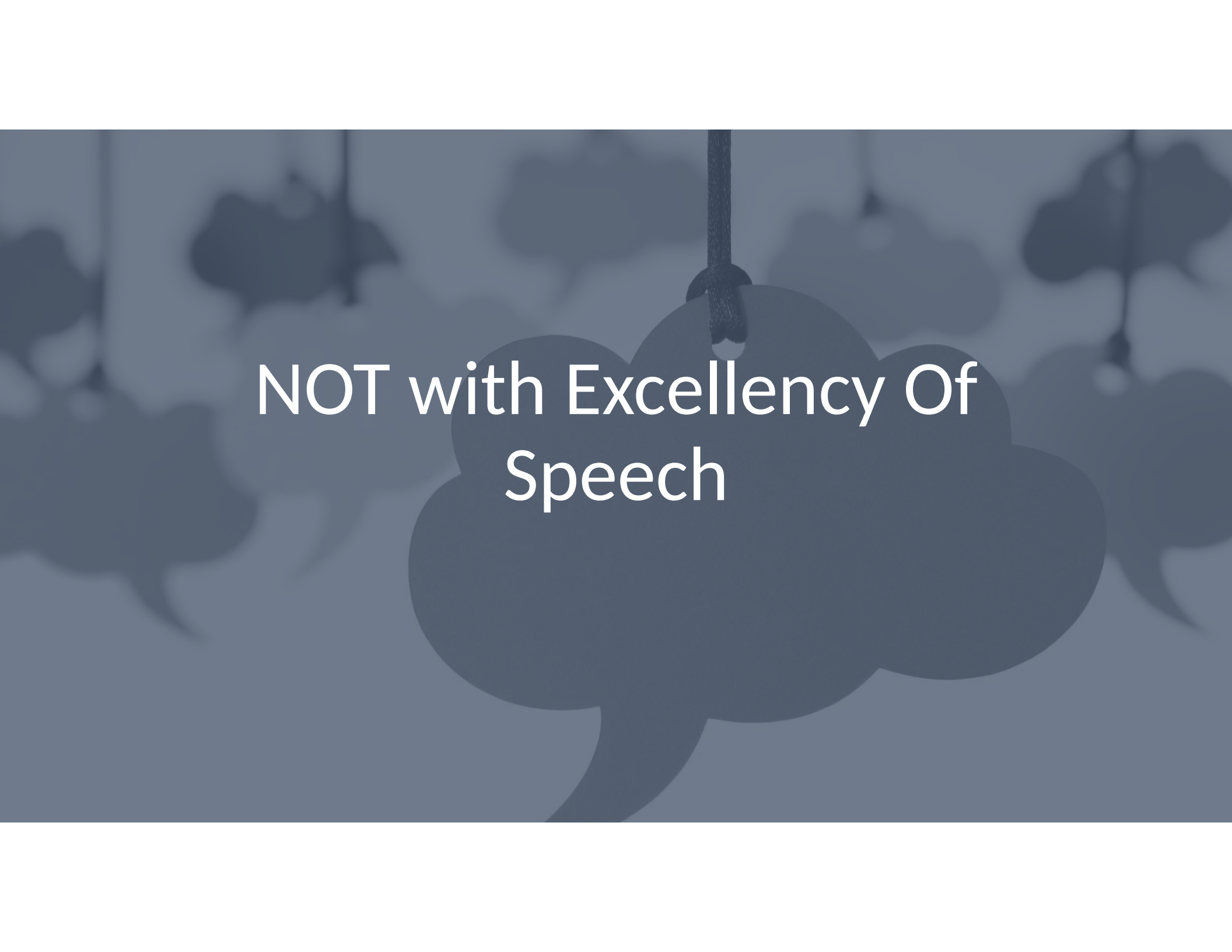
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NOT with Excellency Of
Speech

A chessboard with several pieces, including a king, queen, and pawns, set against a dark background. The pieces are arranged in a way that suggests a strategic move or a moment of decision. The king is the central focus, with the queen and pawns positioned around it. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a chessboard, with the pieces appearing to be made of a light-colored material like wood or stone.

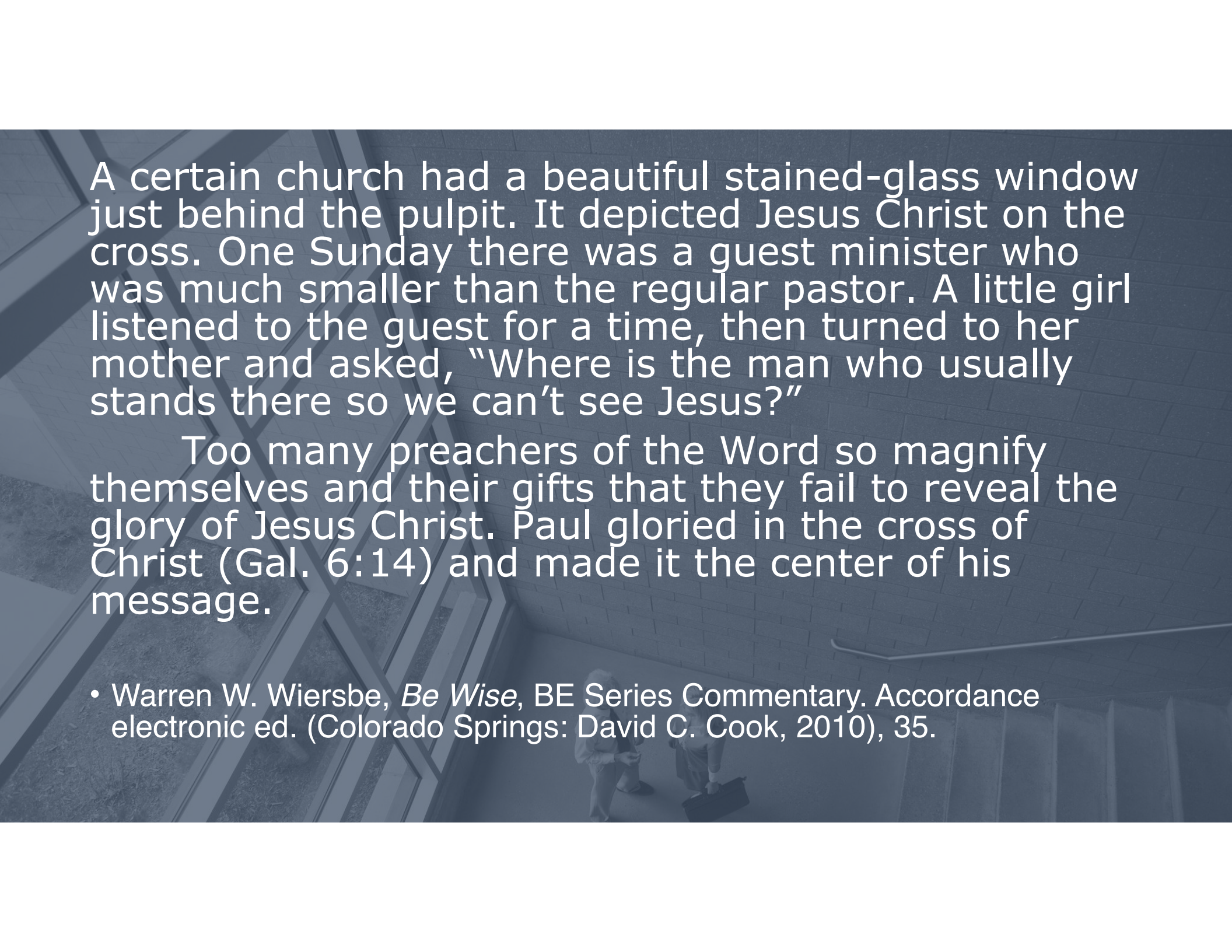
NOT with Wisdom

A vertical metal strip, possibly a component of a typewriter or a similar mechanical device, is shown. It features several embossed symbols: a large question mark at the top, followed by the numbers '2', '0', and '7', and a comma at the bottom. The strip is set against a dark blue background.

Not With Persuasive Words

A collection of light bulbs, with one glowing yellow in the center, symbolizing an idea or wisdom.

Not with Human Wisdom



A certain church had a beautiful stained-glass window just behind the pulpit. It depicted Jesus Christ on the cross. One Sunday there was a guest minister who was much smaller than the regular pastor. A little girl listened to the guest for a time, then turned to her mother and asked, "Where is the man who usually stands there so we can't see Jesus?"

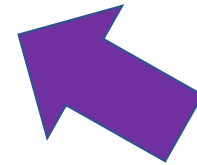
Too many preachers of the Word so magnify themselves and their gifts that they fail to reveal the glory of Jesus Christ. Paul gloried in the cross of Christ (Gal. 6:14) and made it the center of his message.

- Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Wise*, BE Series Commentary. Accordance electronic ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2010), 35.

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Knowing Nothing

A monochromatic, blue-tinted photograph of Christ the Redeemer on Corcovado Mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue stands prominently on the peak, overlooking the city and the bay. The text "Christ and Him Crucified" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Christ and Him Crucified

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest. The scene is dominated by deep blues and greys, with a thick mist or fog hanging between the trees. In the background, a mountain peak is visible, partially obscured by the haze. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

Weakness, Fear and Trembling

“¹ Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. ² But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. ⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ’s, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ’s, even so we are Christ’s. ⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—⁹ lest I seem to terrify you by letters. ¹⁰ “For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” ¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present. ¹² For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” (2 Corinthians 10:1–12 [NKJV](#))

Demonstration of the Spirit and Power

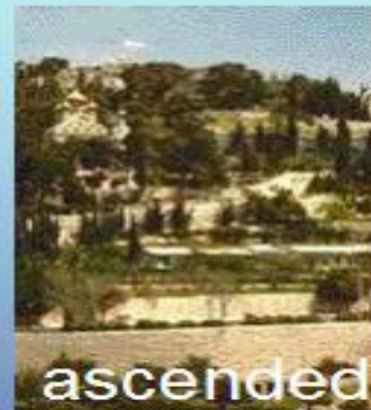
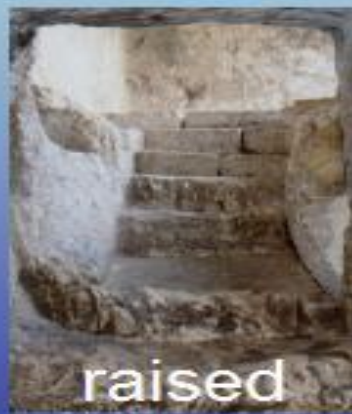
- Does this mean Paul did miracles in Corinth?
- NO! Were this to be a reference to miracles it would contradict what Paul had already said:
- “²²For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;
²³but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,”
(1 Corinthians 1:22–23 NKJV)
- What was this demonstration?



Demonstration

- The Greek word translated “demonstration” is a word for powerful evidence or proof
- When a person trusts in Jesus Christ there are many changes that occur.
- Death to Life, Spiritually Blind and Deaf to Hearing and Seeing, Enslaved to Sin to Empowered by the Spirit

...with Christ



Pictures of People

IN ADAM

IN CHRIST

Separated
from:
God

Old Man –
All of who
you were

Mind History
Ownership

Sin
Nature

Continuity of Person
Body
Characteristics
Personal Identity

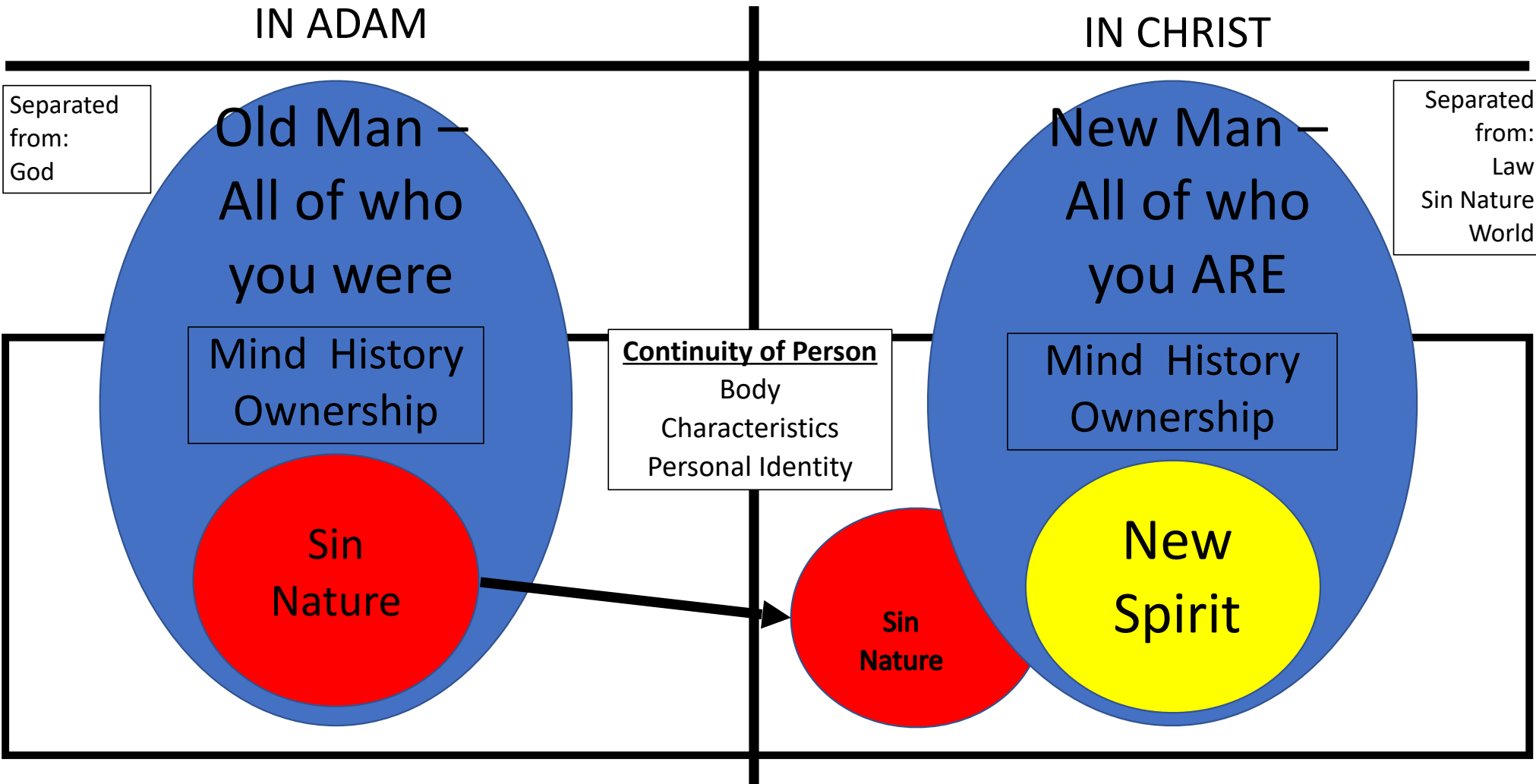
Separated
from:
Law
Sin Nature
World


New Man –
All of who
you ARE

Mind History
Ownership

New
Spirit

Sin
Nature





The Non-Experiential Ministries of the Holy Spirit

- Regeneration - John 3:3,6; Titus 3:5
- Indwelling - 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- Baptizing – 1 Cor. 12:13; Romans 6:3-5
- Sealing – Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22

The Experiential Ministries of the Holy Spirit

- Comforting – John 14:16, 26
- Anointing – 1 John 2:20, 27
- Teaching – John 14:26; 1 John 2:27
- Assuring – Romans 8:16
- Guiding – Romans 8:14
- Interceding – Romans 8:26
- Convicting – John 16:7-11



In our day we have a great many words of man's wisdom. There is a great deal of preaching, but very little of it is done "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." The feeling is that we only need the right method or the right topic or the right style. Oh, how we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our preaching!

J. Vernon McGee, 1 Corinthians—Revelation, vol. V of Thru the Bible. Accordance electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 13.

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Why Paul Did It That
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Proof of Life (v. 5)

- We often wonder what evidence we can offer for someone's salvation
 - There are fruit inspectors
 - Problems
 - There are experience chasers
 - Problems
 - There is the Evidence of the Word of God
 - John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24; Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name,” (John 1:12 [NAS20](#))“

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 [NAS20](#))

““Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24 [NAS20](#))

“²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God’s merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; ²⁶ for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

(Romans 3:21–26 [NAS20](#))

“⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9 [NAS20](#))

So, we can sin all we want?

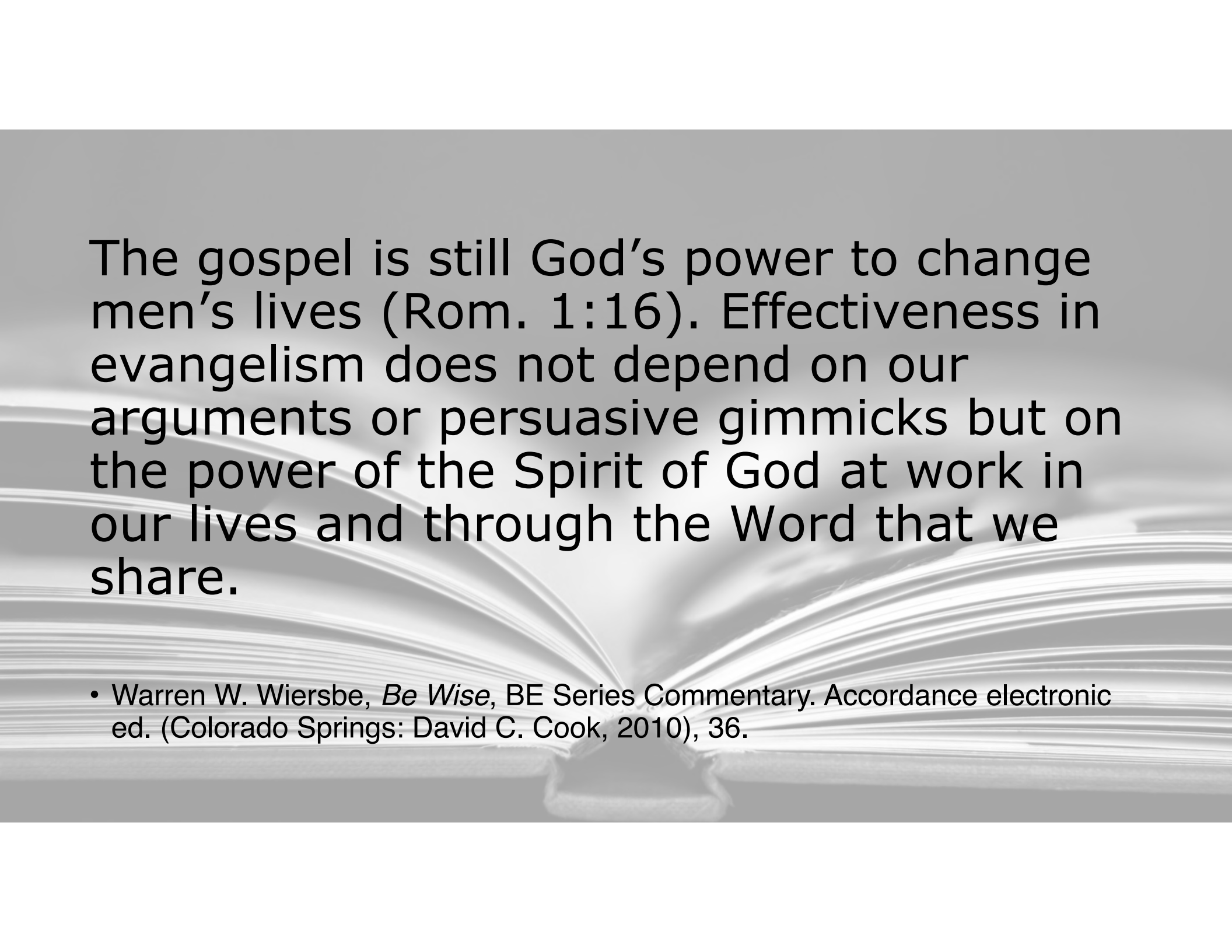
“¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?² Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;⁷ for the one who has died is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.¹¹ So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

(Romans 6:1–11 [NAS20](#))



Proof of Life (v. 5)

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- The Difference between Eternal Security and Assurance of Salvation



The gospel is still God's power to change men's lives (Rom. 1:16). Effectiveness in evangelism does not depend on our arguments or persuasive gimmicks but on the power of the Spirit of God at work in our lives and through the Word that we share.

- Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Wise*, BE Series Commentary. Accordance electronic ed. (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2010), 36.

The Scottish minister John Hutton used to tell a story with enthusiasm. A man who had been a degenerate and a drunkard was captured by Christ. His workmates used to try to shake his convictions and say: 'Surely a sensible man like you cannot believe in the miracles that the Bible tells about. You cannot, for instance, believe that this Jesus of yours turned water into wine.' 'Whether he turned water into wine or not,' said the man, 'I do not know; but in my own house I have seen him turn beer into furniture.'

No one can argue against the proof of a changed life. It is our weakness that too often we have tried to talk people into Christianity instead of, in our own lives, showing them Christ. 'A saint', as someone said, 'is someone in whom Christ lives again.'



But what about Apologetics?!?!

- Apologetics Provides the Believer with Confidence
- Apologetics proves that our faith is reasonable
- Apologetics gives us an opportunity to consider and understand our own beliefs.



1 Corinthians 2:6-16

True Spirituality

Outline

The Wisdom of God
1 Corinthians 2:6-9

Revelation from The
Spirit
1 Corinthians 2:10-12

He who is Spiritual
1 Corinthians 2:13-16

Outline

The Wisdom of God
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1 Corinthians 2:13-16

God's Wisdom

- To unbelievers – only the Gospel
- Wisdom for the Mature
- Defining Maturity



Growth

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:11–16 NKJV

Stages of Growth

- **Unbeliever** – Spiritually Dead – Separated from God – the Gospel and the Bible sound like foolishness
- **Immature Believer** – Spiritually Alive – Believes the Gospel...but that's about it!
- **Mature Believer** – Edified – Knows how to think Biblically – knows Bible Doctrine – Is able to serve and interact.



Not the Wisdom of

- This Age
- The Rulers
- They are all coming to nothing!

Has the wisdom of
“this age” changed?

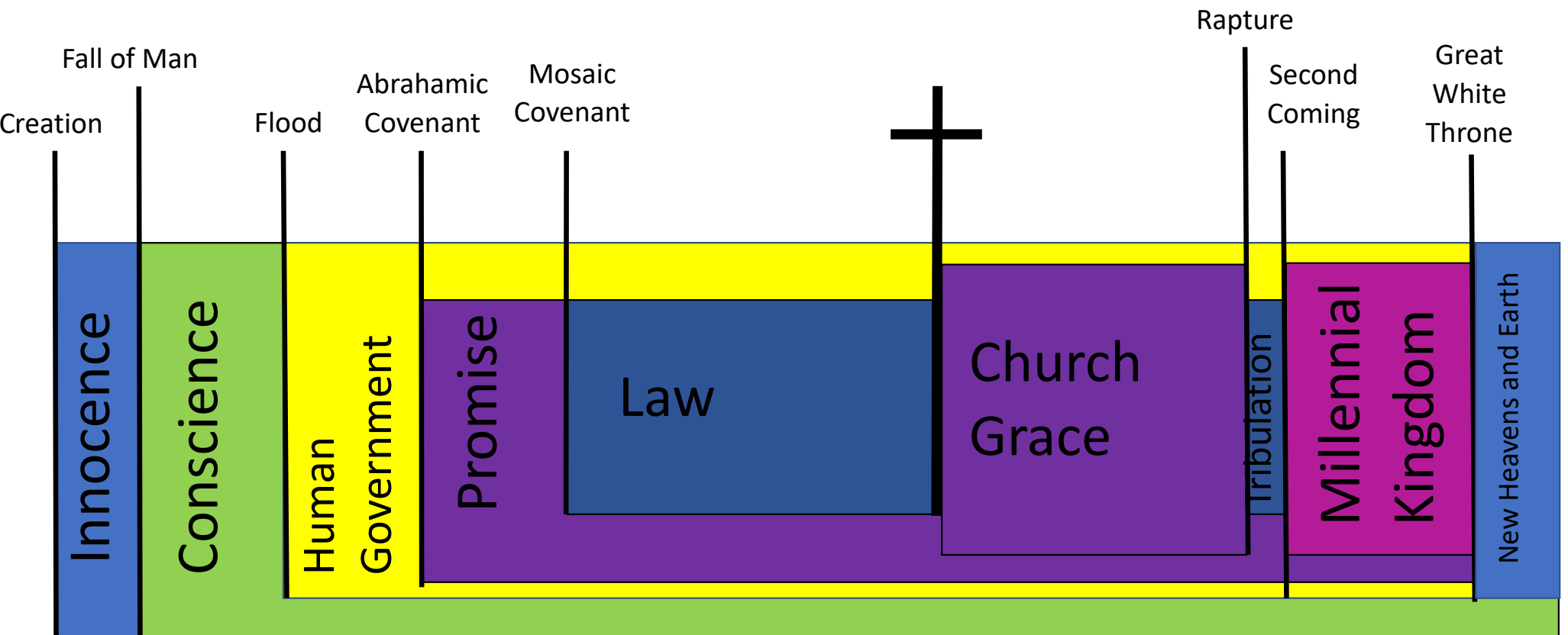
All coming to Nothing



The Mysterious Truth

- The wisdom of God
- In a Mystery – gk – *musterion* – a thing not previously revealed that has now been revealed.
- Though it had been recently revealed it was part of God's eternal plan
- Before the ages
- For our glory

God's Plan for the Ages



They didn't
know...



The Cross





The things which God has prepared...

Outline

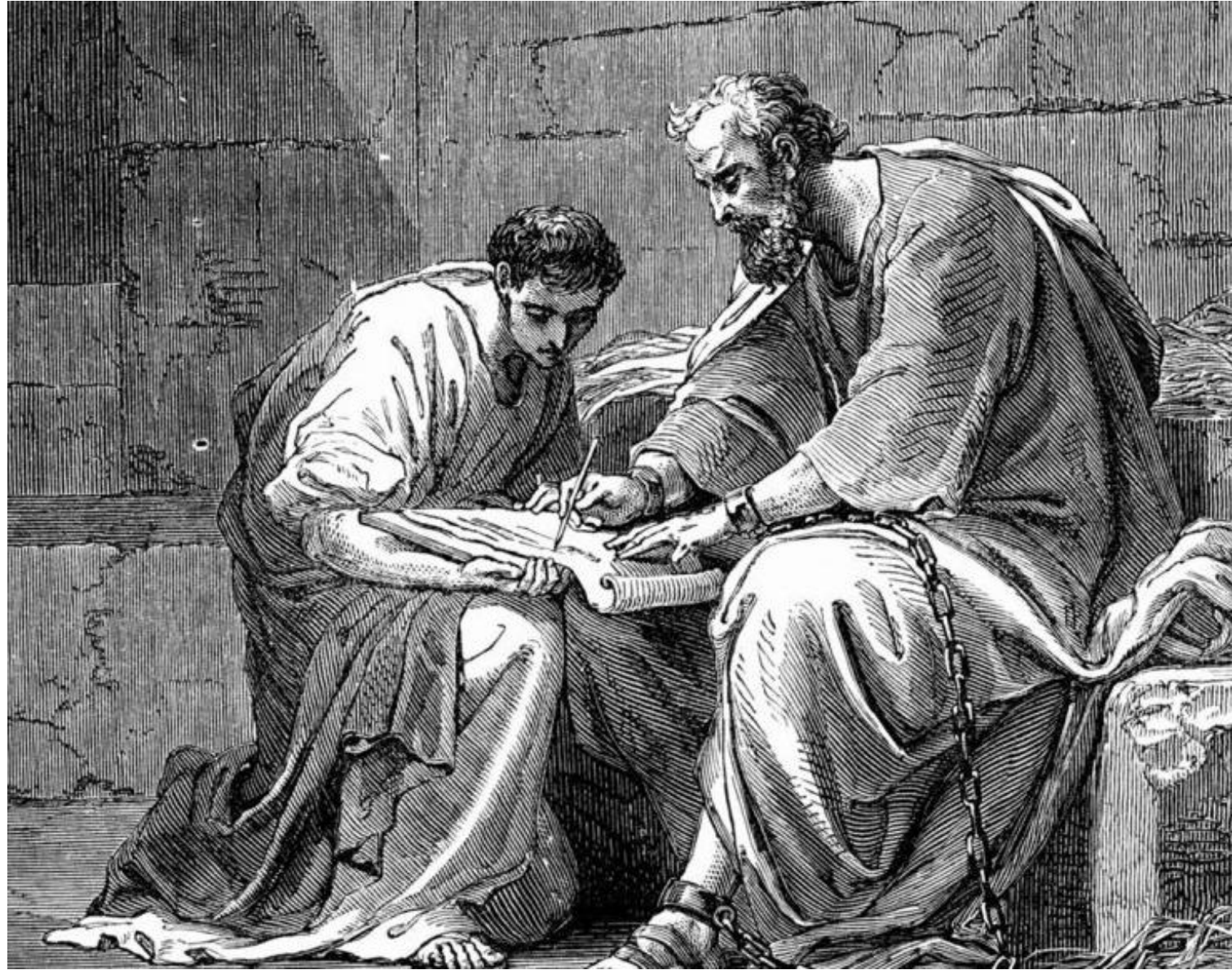
The Wisdom of God
1 Corinthians 2:6-9



Revelation from The
Spirit
1 Corinthians 2:10-12

He who is Spiritual
1 Corinthians 2:13-16

Who is Us?



The Bible is Inspired by God

What “inspiration” means – 2 Timothy 3:15-17

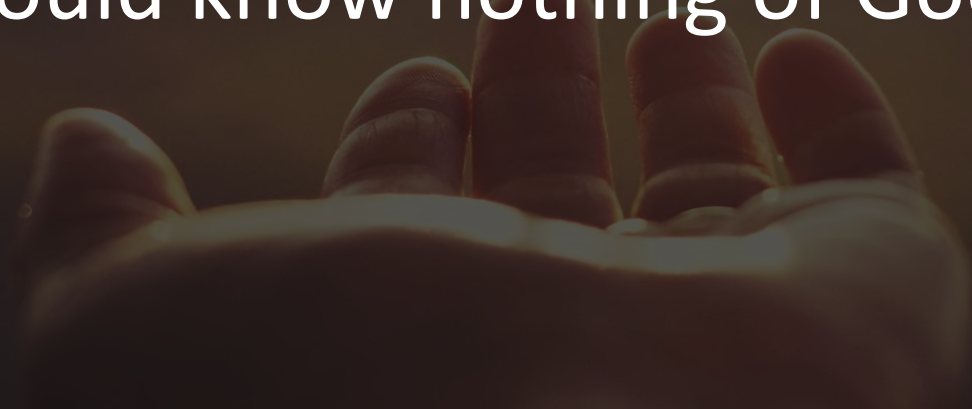
- The letters are inspired – Matthew 5:18
- The words are inspired – Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 30:5
- The grammar is inspired – Matthew 22:32
- Verbal-Plenary Inspiration*

A wide-angle photograph of a deep blue ocean with white-capped waves. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall scene is serene and expansive. The text "The Deep Things" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The Deep Things

Apart from God's Revelation

- We would know nothing of God's Character
- We would know nothing of God's plan
- We would know nothing of God's provision
- We would know nothing of God's promises



Outline

The Wisdom of God
1 Corinthians 2:6-9



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1 Corinthians 2:10-12



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1 Corinthians 2:13-16

The Difference



- Manmade religions and philosophies are inventions of men
- Cleverness, argumentation, or experimentation
- Biblical Christianity is about REVELATION
- The Bible reveals things we wouldn't have figured out, couldn't have figured out.
- The God of the universe chose to reveal Himself in this way through the Bible.



Interpreting Spirituals with Spirituals

“πνευματικοῖς πνευματικὰ
συγκρίνοντες.”

- “combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.” NAS20
- “interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.” ESV
- “explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.” NET
- “explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” NIV11
- “comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” NKJV

The Natural Man



Who is Spiritual?

- A person can rightly be called a Christian who has a right relationship to Christ by grace through faith.
- A person can rightly be called Spiritual who has a right relationship to the Holy Spirit by walking in the Spirit.

He That is Spiritual

- The person who is spiritually alive has access to the full picture
- He understands the soulish-unsaved person because he once was the same
- The soulish-unsaved person cannot understand the Spiritual person because he has never been spiritually alive.

Five Types of People

Unbeliever

Believer – Immature – Carnal

Believer – Immature – Spiritual

Believer – Mature – Carnal

Believer – Mature – Spiritual

Five Types of People Unbeliever

- Unbelieving
- Spiritually Dead – Blind, Deaf
- Deceived
- Self-centered, Self-focused
- Might Look “good” or “bad”

Five Types of People Believer – Immature - Carnal

- May be indistinguishable from unbeliever!
- Knows very little doctrine
- Doubts their salvation
- Easily shaken
- Legalism-license cycles.

Five Types of People Believer - Immature - Spiritual

- Devouring the Word
- Seeking good leadership/mentorship
- Humility
- Active desire to share the gospel

Five Types of People Believer – Mature - Carnal

- May be indistinguishable from unbeliever
- Knows but is not applying doctrine
- Legalism our license bring them to self focus
- Given to emotional fits/ same old sin patterns

Five Types of People Believer – Mature - Spiritual

- Confident in Salvation
- Confident in major Bible doctrines
- At peace in adversity
- Serving using spiritual gifts
- Preoccupied with Christ
- Consistently thinking spiritually-according to the Bible

Five Types of People

Unbeliever

Believer – Immature – Carnal

Believer – Immature – Spiritual

Believer – Mature – Carnal

Believer – Mature – Spiritual

The Mind of the Christ

- Quoting Isaiah 40:3
- God alone is Omniscient
- We have no natural way to access God's thoughts
- "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 NKJV

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1 Corinthians 3

Working and Rewards

June 18, 2023

1
Corinthians
3 - Outline

The Carnality of Division
1 Corinthians 3:1-8

God's Building
1 Corinthians 3:9-16

All things are Yours
1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Five Types of People

Unbeliever

Believer – Immature – Carnal

Believer – Immature – Spiritual

Believer – Mature – Carnal

Believer – Mature – Spiritual

Realistic Expectations

- First visited Corinth in 50 ad
- He wrote this letter around 55 ad
- By this time, he expected them to be mature in their faith
- Yet, their sectarianism was evidence of one of two things
- They were not yet mature
- Or they were carnal (not living according to their faith)

Milk for Babies – Solids for Adults



Hebrews 5:12–14 [NKJV](#)

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Milk vs. Solid Food

Milk

- Basic Christian Beliefs
 - The Gospel
 - God's Character
 - God's Provisions
 - Doctrine of the Bible
- Basic Christian Practices
 - Prayer
 - Church Attendance
 - Bible Reading
 - Christian Service

Solid Food

- Serious discussion of the Text
- Complex Passages and Theological Ideas
- Serving and Edifying others in the Body of Christ.

3 Big Questions

- Am I saved or unsaved?
 - Have I trusted Jesus Christ for Salvation
- Am I immature or mature?
 - Do I know what the Bible has to say on the big issues?
- Am I spiritual or carnal?
 - Is my focus on Jesus Christ or anywhere else?

Carnal Behaviors

- Envy
- Strife
- Divisions
- Personality Cults



A dark, atmospheric photograph of several people at night, their figures in silhouette. They are holding up lit sparklers, which create bright, starburst patterns of light against the dark sky. The overall mood is celebratory and festive.

Who is Paul?



The Motivation of Rewards

“each one will
receive his own
reward
according to his
own labor.”

(1 Corinthians
3:8 [NKJV](#))

1
Corinthians
3 - Outline

The Carnality of Division

1 Corinthians 3:1-8



God's Building

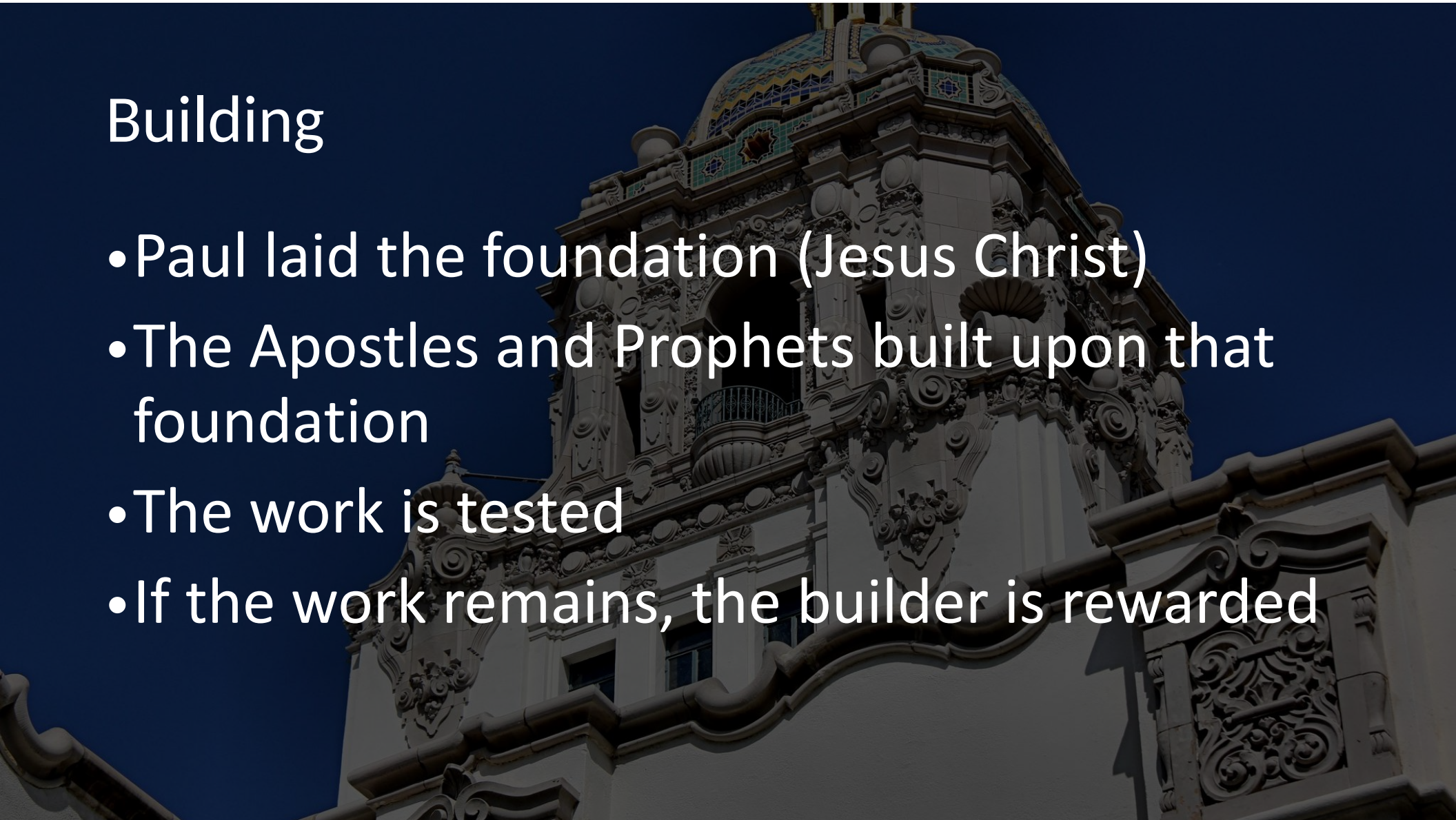
1 Corinthians 3:9-16

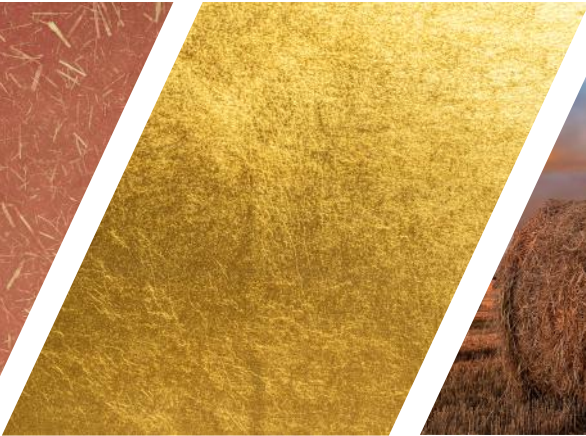
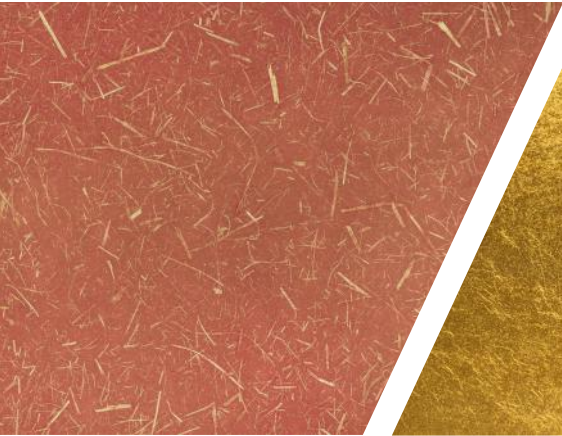
All things are Yours

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Building

- Paul laid the foundation (Jesus Christ)
- The Apostles and Prophets built upon that foundation
- The work is tested
- If the work remains, the builder is rewarded





Building Materials

Christian Service Builds Up the Church

- Sharing the Gospel
- Teaching the Word
- Supporting/Encouraging/Serving Others
- Caring for Spiritual/Emotional/Physical Needs
- Financial Support

14 Rewards Promised in the Bible

Adapted from Dr. David Kyle Foster

1. For *faith* in the LORD

Reward: God Himself ([Genesis 15:1](#))

2. For keeping God's statutes

Reward: a great reward ([Psalm 19:21](#))

3. For conducting ourselves well

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Psalm 62:12](#); [Jeremiah 17:32](#); [Matthew 16:27](#); [Revelation 22:12](#))

4. For sowing righteousness

Reward: a sure reward ([Proverbs 11:18](#))

5. For being kind to the poor

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Proverbs 19:17](#); [Proverbs 25:22](#))

6. For being persecuted because of Him

Reward: a great reward ([Matthew 5:12](#); [Matthew 6:1](#), [Matthew 6:5](#))

7. For welcoming true prophets or righteous men

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Matthew 10:41](#))

8. For doing acts of righteousness for the praise of God rather than men

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Matthew 6:1](#))

9. For loving your enemies, lending to and doing good to them without expectation

Reward: a great reward ([Luke 6:35](#))

10. For actions found to be of good quality in God's sight

Reward: an unnamed reward ([1 Corinthians 3:8](#), [1 Corinthians 12-15](#))

11. For doing good wholeheartedly

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Colossians 3:23](#))

12. For standing your ground during persecution and suffering with confident perseverance

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Hebrews 10:32-39](#))

13. For choosing to suffer mistreatment for God's sake

Reward: an unnamed reward ([Hebrews 11:6](#))

14. For faithfully continuing in the teaching of Christ

Reward: rewarded fully ([2 John 8-9](#))

13 Crowns Promised in the Bible

Adapted from Dr. David Kyle Foster

1. For those who delight the Lord by being humble

Crown: a crown of [salvation](#) ([Psalm 149:4](#))

2. For those who esteem wisdom

Crown: a crown of splendor ([Proverbs 4:9](#))

3. For those who lead a righteous life

Crown: a crown of blessing ([Proverbs 10:6](#))

4. For the ransomed of the Lord who walk in the way of holiness

Crown: a crown of everlasting joy...and gladness ([Isaiah 35:10](#) and [Isaiah 51:11](#))

5. For the poor, brokenhearted, captives/prisoners, mourners who are oaks of righteousness

Crown: a crown of beauty ([Isaiah 61:3](#))

6. For those who compete (for the sake of the gospel) in the game (of serving the Lord) after strict training

Crown: a crown that will last forever ([1 Corinthians 9:25](#))

7. For those who act like a “brother” to other believers

Crown: a crown of joy ([Philippians 4:1](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:19](#))

8. For those who have “fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith,” as well as for “all who have longed for His appearing”

Crown: a crown of righteousness ([2 Timothy 4:8](#))

9. For those who have persevered under trial and stood the test

Crown: the crown of life ([James 1:12](#))

10. For those who have remained faithful unto death during trials and persecutions

Crown: the crown of life ([Revelation 2:10](#))

11. For those church elders who have been faithful as godly examples over their flock

Crown: an unfading crown of glory ([1 Peter 5:4](#))

12. For elders (the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles) who are seated before the throne of God

Crown: crowns of gold ([Revelation 4:4](#))

13. For running the race

Crown: a victor’s crown ([2 Timothy 2:5](#))

The One Without Works

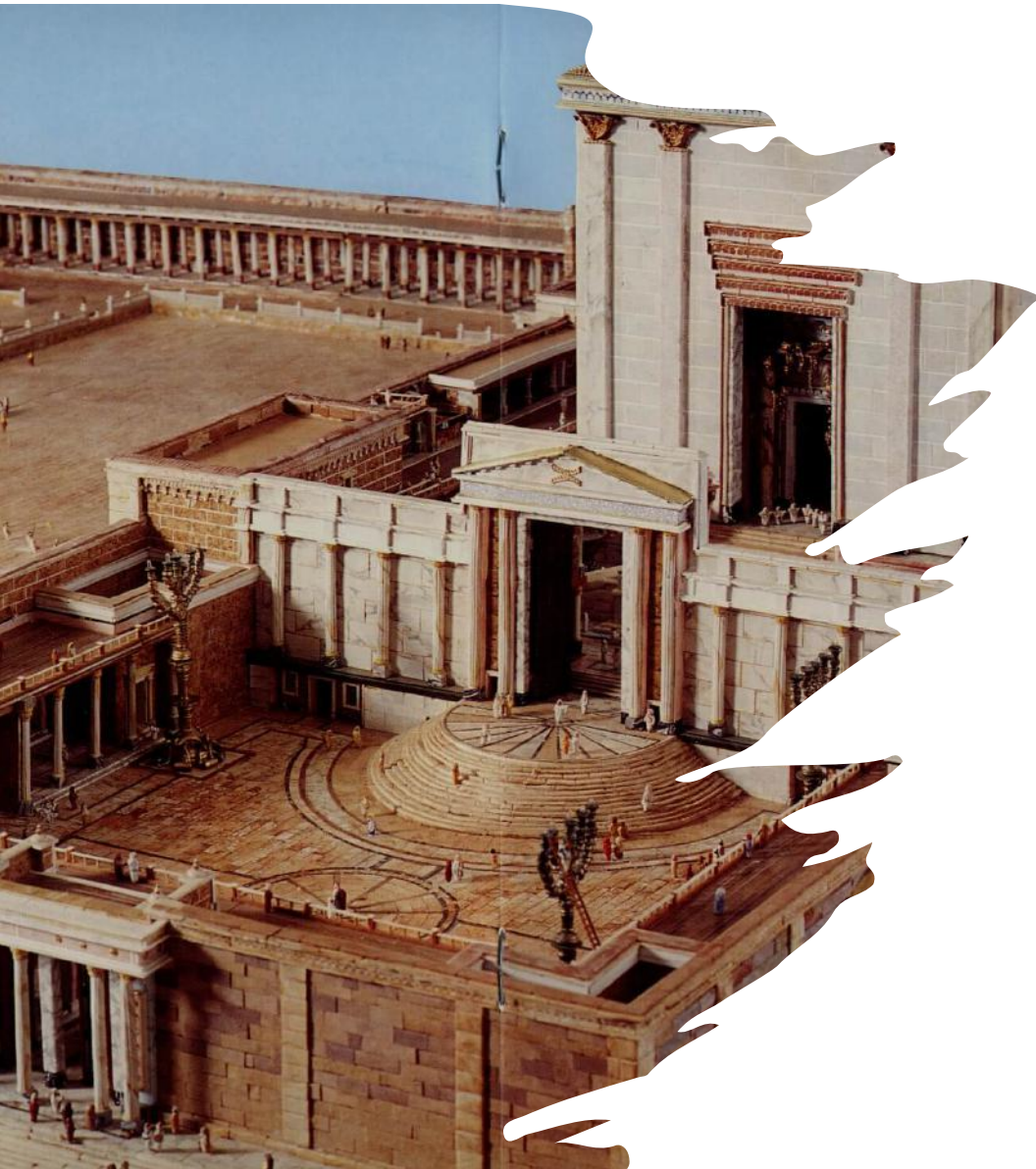
“If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:15

The Church – The Temple of God

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”

(1 Corinthians 3:16–17 [NKJV](#))



The Temple of God

- The Tabernacle
- Solomon's Temple
- The Second Temple
- The Church Body
- The Tribulation Temple
- The Millennial Temple

The Temple of God



“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

(Ephesians 2:19–22 [NKJV](#))

1
Corinthians
3 - Outline

The Carnality of Division

1 Corinthians 3:1-8



God's Building

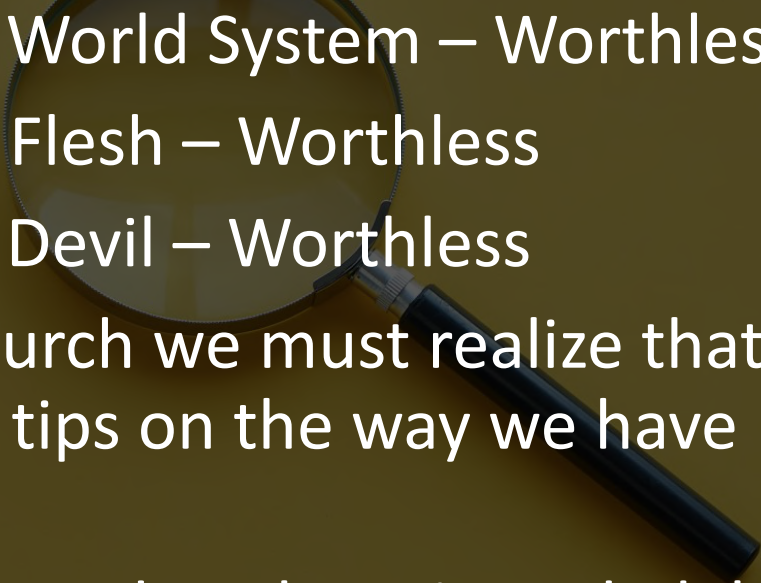
1 Corinthians 3:9-16



All things are Yours

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Don't Deceive Yourself

- What we learned from the World System – Worthless
 - What we learned from our Flesh – Worthless
 - What we learned from the Devil – Worthless
 - When we come into the church we must realize that we are not just gaining helpful tips on the way we have already been living.
 - Everything from the world needs to be rejected, deleted, removed; and replaced with God's word!
- 

Don't Boast in Men

- Paul, Apollos, Cephas
- The world or life or death
- Things present or things to come
- All belong to you
- You belong to Christ
- Christ belongs to God

1
Corinthians
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God's Building

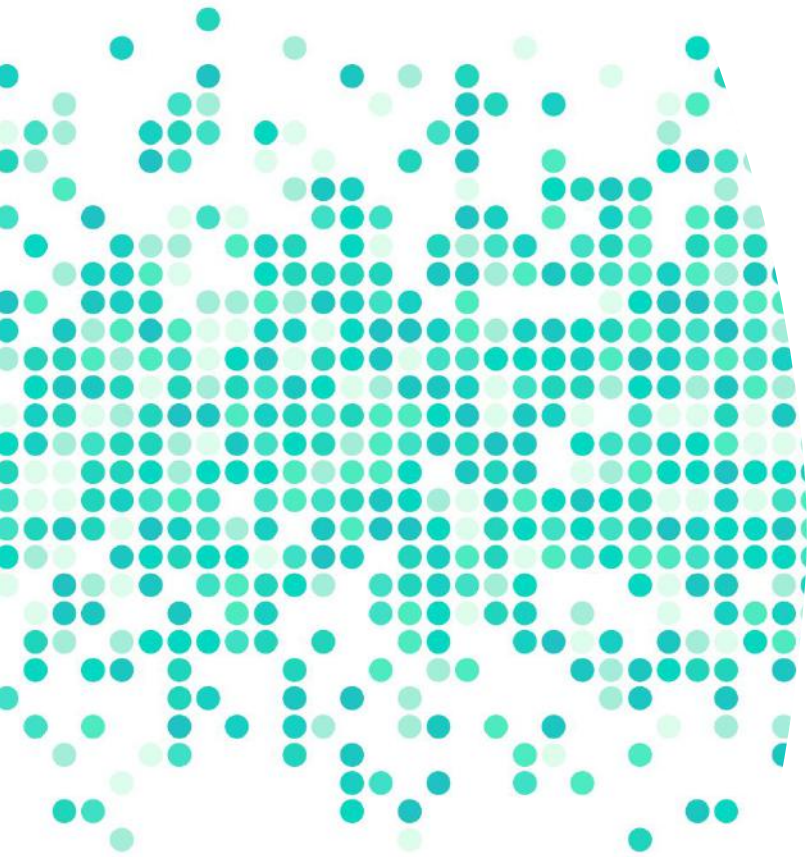
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All things are Yours

1 Corinthians 3:18-23





Conclusion

The Word of God and True Spirituality