

# 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

What Paul Didn't Do



What Paul Did

Outline

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 an 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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NOT with  
Excellency Of  
Speech

NOT with Wisdom

<p>Not With Persuasive Words</p>	<p>Not with Human Wisdom</p>
<p>Outline</p> <hr/> <p>What Paul Didn't Do ✓</p> <hr/> <p>What Paul Did ←</p> <hr/> <p>Why Paul Did It That Way</p>	 <p>Knowing Nothing</p>
<p>Christ and Him Crucified</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 15:3-5</p> <p><sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.</p>
<p>Weakness, Fear and Trembling</p>	<p>Demonstration of the Spirit and Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does this mean Paul did miracles in Corinth?</li> <li>• NO! Were this to be a reference to miracles it would contradict what Paul had already said:</li> <li>• “<sup>22</sup>For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,” (1 Corinthians 1:22–23 NKJV)</li> <li>• What was this demonstration?</li> </ul>

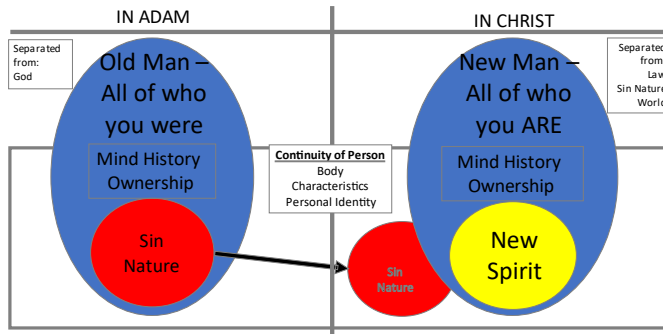
## Demonstration

- 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



## 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

What Paul Didn't Do ✓

## Outline

What Paul Did ✓

Why Paul Did It That Way ↖

## 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](#))

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,<sup>22</sup>but *it is the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for **all those who believe** for there is no distinction,<sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup>being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup>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;<sup>26</sup>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](#))

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

### So, we can sin all we want?

<sup>4</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?<sup>5</sup>Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?<sup>6</sup>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.<sup>7</sup>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, 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 for the one who has died is freed from sin.<sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.<sup>9</sup>For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.<sup>10</sup>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)

- We often wonder what evidence we can offer for someone's salvation
  - There are fruit inspectors
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    - John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24; Romans 3:21 -26; Ephesians 2:8 -9; 1 Corinthians 15:1 -5
- The Difference between Eternal Security and Assurance of Salvation

### 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

### God's Wisdom

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



## 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.

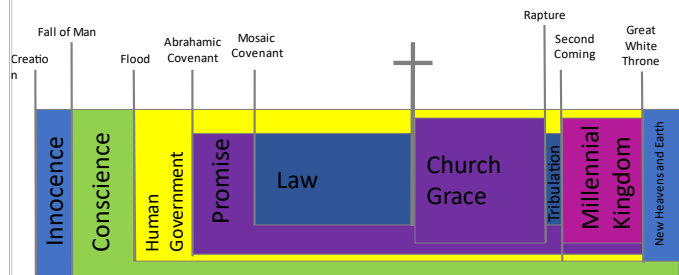
## Not the Wisdom of

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

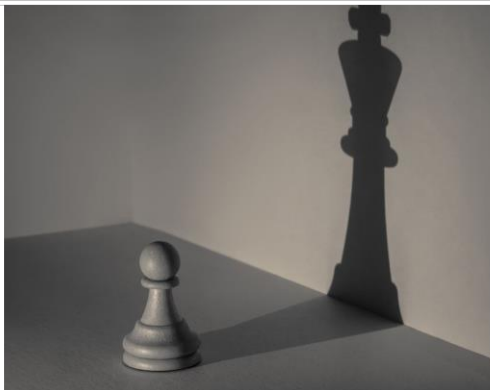
## The Mysterious Truth

- 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



## Outline

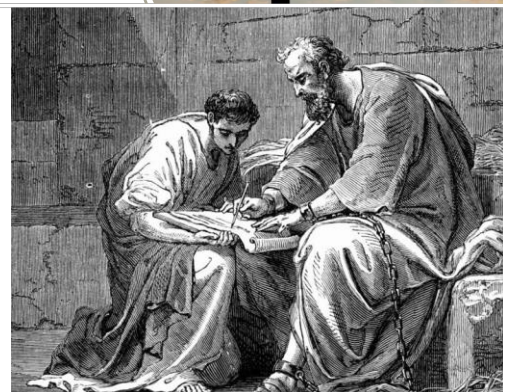
The Wisdom of God  
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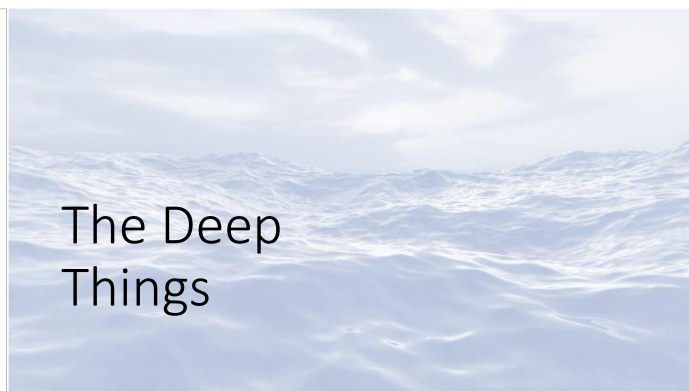
Who is Us?



## 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*



## 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 ✓

Revelation from The  
Spirit  
1 Corinthians 2:10-12 ✓

He who is Spiritual  
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

“πνευματικῶς 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

### 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

## 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

# 1 Corinthians 3

Working and Rewards  
June 18, 2023

## The Carnality of Division 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

1  
Corinthians  
3 - Outline

God's Building  
1 Corinthians 3:9-16

All things are Yours  
1 Corinthians 3:18-23

## 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





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  
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### 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

### Christian Service Builds Up the Church

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

### 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  
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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

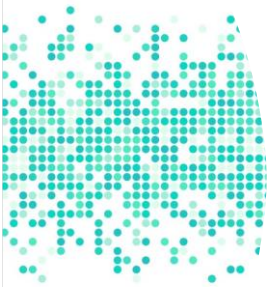
- Paul, Apollos, Cephas
- The world or life or death
- Things present or things to come
- All belong to you
- You belong to Christ
- Christ belongs to God

The Carnality of Division  
1 Corinthians 3:1-8 ✓

1  
Corinthians  
3 - Outline

God's Building  
1 Corinthians 3:9-16 ✓

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Conclusion

The Word of God and True Spirituality