

## **The Gospel is About Wisdom—God's wisdom**

### **2:6**

#### **Garland**

“We do speak” is an editorial we referring to his own preaching or to that of his fellow apostles or the apostolic witness.

Paul has been on the warpath against wisdom as the Corinthians define it. But now, he will explain and define genuine wisdom

### **2:7**

### **2:8**

### **2:9**

### **2:10**

### **2:11**

### **2:12**

### **2:13**

### **2:14**

### **2:15**

### **2:16**

## **INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS**

#### **Thistleton shorter**

***Paul draws upon vocab and catchphrases used in Corinth. Words like wisdom, knowledge, spiritual, mature. Paul uses them all but redefines them***

***To be spiritual does not mean to draw on the innate “higher” capacity of the human soul; it is to be motivated, activated, and transformed by the spirit of God. The spirit comes from God, v 12, the spirit's work promotes the mind of Christ (v16)***

#### **Garland**

We do speak

## **The Gospel is About Wisdom—God's wisdom**

***This picks up from 2:4, 1:26, 27***

***The Christian message is one of wisdom, but not worldly wisdom—it has supernatural origins!***

Not “this age” wisdom or “the rulers of this age” wisdom, 2:6b

God's wisdom is secret and has been hidden, 2:7

*Secret: that which cannot be discovered without divine revelation  
(Eph 3:9; Col 1:26)*

*Hidden: That which can only be known through divine  
revelation*

The rulers of this age never understood it, that's why they crucified the Lord of Glory, 2:8

*Rulers of this age are leaders under demonic influence.*

*Paul paraphrases Isaiah 64:4, 2:9*

Eye, ear and heart are the organs of understanding in this imagery.

*Eye = empirical sources*

*Ear = traditional knowledge passed on through  
teachers*

*Mind/heart = intuitive insight*

*The reason believers understand this is because it comes from the Spirit of God, 2:10a*

***The only way to understand this is if the Spirit of God reveals it.***

The Spirit of God understands the things of God, 2:10b-11

Believers have the spirit of Christ/God, 2:12-13

Unbelievers are “the man/person without the spirit”

*He cannot understand them, see also 2 Cor 4:4*

*They are spiritually discerned*

Apart from the work of the Spirit of God, people will never get this right.

The spirit of God takes the word of God and penetrates the heart of the lost person and makes him a child of God.

*People need to understand this offensive message without dilution.*

**Saved people ought to get this and not be influenced by “man’s judgment,” 2:15**

**Those who are saved have the spirit/mind of Christ and understand this, 2:16**

What is the mind of Christ?

*Phil 2:5ff*

*Not special wisdom or experiences or knowledge*

*Putting off selfish ambitions, humbling one’s self and giving to others*

Being spiritual does not refer to “super-extra-high powered Christians.”

It refers to the nature of all genuine Christians: they have a relation to God through the work of the Spirit who indwells them.

**While the Corinthians are spiritual, they are not mature, 3:1-4**

It is time to stop thinking and acting like the world

*They thought their way of seeing things was correct. They had deep convictions about how things ought to be.*

They were not putting off selfish ambitions, humbling themselves and giving to others.

If so they would not be taking sides over issues of party and preference.

They weren’t ready for solid food. They were babies.

*There is nothing wrong with being a baby. There is something wrong with remaining a baby.*

*It is possible to be a Christian for many years and never grow up.*

The greatest Christians are not the makers and shakers who “get things done.” The greatest Christians are the ones who lay aside self,

**humble themselves and give sacrificially to others for the sake of the kingdom.**

## **Two questions**

**Are you spiritual?**

**Are you mature?**