

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

Lesson 5

In this section of 1 Corinthians 2, Paul contrasts the *natural man* and the *spiritual man*. As Believers, we can function in either realm. In which class are you traveling? May your study of these verses quicken in you an even deeper desire to walk in the realm of the Spirit.

DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 10-12

Verse 13

Verses 14-16

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 2.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lesson: *God, Jesus, Spirit (not spirit), wisdom and foolishness*

New to this lesson: *spiritual*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them – only those that you feel are significant.

3. Make a list of what the text reveals about the Holy Spirit.

4. Now, using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

1. We learned from the last lesson that *the things*, the blessings God has prepared for *those who love Him* cannot be known through any means of natural wisdom or knowledge or human reasoning. How are they *revealed to those who love Him*?

a. The word *revealed* means to remove the cover or to unveil. Why is the Spirit able to reveal *the things of God* to those who love Him? 1 Corinthians 2:10b,11b.

2. Thoughtfully read 1 Corinthians 2:12 several times. Contemplate the truth revealed in this verse. Now, write this verse by completing the following phrases:

Now we have received, not _____ but (we have received) _____, that we might _____ that have been _____.

a. List some synonyms for the word *know*.

b. It is God’s intention that we *know* the things He has freely given us. What might hinder a Christian from *knowing* these things?

3. God loves His children so much that He wants to give us insights into the things He has for us now and in the future. Look at Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:16-21 to confirm this. Comment on what you read.

- a. List a few of the wonderful blessings from Ephesians 1:3-11 that are ours and share what they mean to you.

 - b. Look again at 1 Corinthians 2:12. Who has been given to us that we might *know* these *things* that are ours?
4. In Daniel 2:20-22, Daniel burst forth in praise. Read these verses and record what they say about our awesome God (noting that the *wise* and the *understanding* are those who follow Him, not those of the world).

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 2:13

1. What things does Paul say he:
 - a. does not speak (1 Corinthians 2:13a)
 - b. does speak (1 Corinthians 2:13b)
 - c. Why is this important? (Review 1 Corinthians 2:4-7)

Challenge: State in your own words the meaning of *comparing spiritual things with spiritual*.

2. The Holy Spirit *teaches* us. Look up the following verses and record what they say about this:
 - a. Luke 2:26
 - b. Luke 12:11-12
 - c. John 14:26
 - d. John 16:13
 - e. 1 John 2:20

3. The Holy Spirit *teaches*, but He does not demand. What have you learned from not only hearing the Holy Spirit, but obeying what He has taught you?

4. Explain, as you would to a new Christian, the *spiritual realm* as compared to the *natural realm*.

5. How might we, as Christians, settle for functioning with the wisdom of the world (or our own understanding)?
 - a. What can we do to train our spiritual senses?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

1. The *natural man* referred to in 1 Corinthians 2:14 is the person who has not been born again. Why can't he receive or understand *the things of the Spirit of God*?
 - a. Even as believers, without God's Spirit working in us we can never get it right. Relate 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 to 1 Corinthians 2:14 by jotting down the results of employing human wisdom.

 - b. Proverbs 3:5b says we are *to lean not on our own understanding*. What kinds of mistakes might we as believers make if we rely on *natural* wisdom?
 - 1.) How did the Lord correct Samuel when he relied on his own wisdom? 1 Samuel 16:6,7

 - 2.) To avoid these mistakes, what safeguard do we find in James 1:5?
 - a.) What have you personally experienced through the application of this verse?

2. The word *spiritual* in 1 Corinthians 2:15 refers to a believer. The word *judges* could be translated as discerns or understands. Because the Holy Spirit dwells in each and every believer, what is the *spiritual* man able to do?

- a. One type of *judging* the believer is able to do is revealed in the following verses. What do they say we are to do?

John 7:17

Ephesians 4:13-14

1 John 4:1

- 1.) Summarize what these verses are saying.

Challenge: Explain the meaning of the phrase *yet he himself is rightly judged by no man*.

3. 1 Corinthians 2:16a asks the thought provoking question *who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?* Compare this question with the questions in Isaiah 40:13,14,25. Summarize the key thoughts.

- a. We recognize that no one can compare or fully comprehend our God. Nevertheless He calls us to *Behold Him* (Isaiah 40:9). Scan Isaiah 40:10-31 and choose phrases that help you *Behold your God*.

- 1.) Mark one of these phrases that impact you the most and tell why.

4. Explain the phrase *but we have the mind of Christ* (1 Corinthians 2:16) by 1 Corinthians 2:12.

- a. What does Philippians 2:5 say about this?

- 1.) Describe the *mind of Christ* (attitude) from Philippians 2:6-8.

- 2.) Unfortunately, often when we think of the *mind of Christ* we do not think about the attitude of humility and self-sacrifice. In what way is this a reminder to you of the importance of your actions over your spiritual knowledge?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

1. Observe the word *things* repeated often throughout these verses. Record what is said about *things* from the following verses:

verse 9

verse 10a (*them* refers to *things* of verse 9)

verse 10b

verse 10c

verse 11a

verse 11b

verse 12

verse 13

verse 14a

verse 14b (*them* refers to *things*)

verse 15

2. Describe: the natural man

the spiritual man

- a. What or Who makes the difference?

3. This section of 1 Corinthians 2 speaks much about the Holy Spirit. Record the verbs (action words) used in these verses to describe Him.

4. How does having the *mind of Christ* make a difference in your life?

5. Share one thing from 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 that has impacted you.

*Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me!*

Lesson 5 Scripture References

DAY THREE

3. **Ephesians 1:16-21** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, [18] the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power [20] which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
- 3a **Ephesians 1:3-11** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, [4] just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, [5] having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, [6] to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. [7] In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace [8] which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, [9] having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, [10] that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. [11] In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
4. **Daniel 2:20-22** Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. [21] And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. [22] He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

DAY FOUR

- 1c **1 Corinthians 2:4-7** 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 not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. [6] However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. [7] But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,
2. **Luke 2:26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
Luke 12:11-12 Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. [12] For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."
John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

DAY FIVE

1a. **1 Corinthians 1:18-21** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." [20] Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? [21] For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1b. **Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

1.) **1 Samuel 16:6-7** So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." [7] But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

2.) **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2a. **John 7:17** If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

Ephesians 4:13-14 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; [14] 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,

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. **Isaiah 40:13-14** Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him? [14] With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

Isaiah 40:25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

3a. **Isaiah 40:9** O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

Isaiah 40:10-31 Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. [11] He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. [12] Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? [13] Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him? [14] With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge,

And showed Him the way of understanding? [15] Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. [16] And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. [17] All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. [18] To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? [19] The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. [20] Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image that will not totter. [21] Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? [22] It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. [23] He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. [24] Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. [25] "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. [26] Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.[27] Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God"? [28] Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. [29] He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. [30] Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, [31] But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

4a. **Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

1.) **Philippians 2:6-8** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.