

Series: Words of Correction and Counsel

SUPERNATURAL OR SUPERFICIAL

1 CORINTHIANS 2

Text:

Introduction:

There are two categories of people who go to church - those who know about God, and then there are those who know God.

There are these who are superficial, and there are those who are supernatural.

There are those who depend upon human wisdom, and there are those who depend upon heavenly wisdom.

One of the great needs of this hour is wisdom - for the individual, the family, the church, and the nation.

- Wisdom is more important than money.

Proverbs 3:13-15

¹³ Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. ¹⁴ For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

- Wisdom is more important than military power.

Ecclesiastes 9:18

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

- Wisdom is more important than intellectualism.

Proverbs 4:4-6

⁴ He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

I want us to consider this evening the difference between the Supernatural and the Superficial.

Note:

1. THERE IS HUMAN WISDOM THAT IS SUPERFICIAL

Understand:

A. Human Wisdom Is Dangerous (vs. 1-5)

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Paul was mighty in intellect and learning, but he refused to use human philosophy and wisdom.

The people of Corinth had already been swept away by worldly wisdom.

Paul was terrified at the thought that their faith would stand in such human wisdom (vv. 2-3).

1 Corinthians 2:2-3

² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

Not only is human wisdom dangerous but also:

B. Human Wisdom Is Deceptive (vs. 6a)

1 Corinthians 2:6

⁶ *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the **princes of this world**, that come to nought:*

"Princes of this world" speaks of the high and mighty - the intellectual topwaters.

Illustration:

Many who are in political positions have opportunities that is often not afforded to normal people.

The word "world" means age.

In other words what Paul was saying is that it will not last. It will come to nothing.

Worldly wisdom promises much, but it is so deceptive.

Not only is human wisdom dangerous and deceptive but also:

C. Human Wisdom is Deficient (vs. 7-9)

1 Corinthians 2:7-9

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

- It is totally incapable of perceiving divine mystery (v. 7).

A mystery is that which is known only by God's revelation.

The natural cannot know the supernatural. The finite cannot know the infinite apart from revelation.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Human wisdom does not have the proper equipment to know God.

The eye and the ear deal with objective facts. The heart deals with subjective feelings.

You may know Greek but not God. You may know Hebrew but not Him.

- The natural (soulish) man cannot know God (v. 14).

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

He does not have the equipment. You cannot smell music. Your nose may be working very well, but it cannot smell music. It is the spirit and not the soul that receives spiritual knowledge.

With your soul you may know about God, but you cannot know God. One may know all about bread and starve to death

Knowledge is learned, but wisdom is given

Knowledge comes by looking around, but wisdom comes by looking up

Knowledge comes by study, but wisdom comes by revelation

Knowledge comes to the soul, but wisdom comes to the spirit

This is why Paul preached as he did (vv. 1-4).

1 Corinthians 2:1-4

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Only the Holy Spirit can impart truth

John 3:27

²⁷ John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

1 Corinthians 12:3

³ Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

⁴ *Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.*

⁵ *For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.*

Not only is human wisdom dangerous, deceptive and deficient but also:

D. Human Wisdom is Devilish (vs. 8)

1 Corinthians 2:8

⁸ *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

Here is the proof of the bankruptcy of human wisdom

Christ was put to death by the best minds of His day.
The Jewish and Romans Intellectuals

They did not do it casually but carefully. Not a few of them but many of them. "They took counsel."

I remind you that these were religious people.

Note what we read in James.

James 3:14-16

¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

I read of a preacher who once dressed up like a devil and picketing his church to warn people not to come to church trying to illustrate how Satan often works.

But let me say the devil often dresses up like a preacher and does come to church.

We have considered Human Wisdom that Is Superficial, note secondly:

2. THE HEAVENLY WISDOM THAT IS SUPERNATURAL

Paul now shows we may know Heaven's wisdom.

Note:

A. Supernatural Revelation (vs. 10-11)

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Note:

- Only the Spirit of God knows the mind of God. (v. 10).
- We cannot really know each other much less know God apart from revelation (v. 11).
- Revelation is the communication of God's truth to man

Note supernatural revelation but also:

B. Supernatural Inspiration (vs. 12-13)

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

The word “we” means the apostles.

Inspiration is the accurate transmission and recording of God's revealed truth.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

We have noted the supernatural revelation and inspiration but also note:

C. Supernatural Illumination (vs. 14-16)

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The same Holy Spirit of revelation and inspiration must illuminate the Christian. You can have a divinely inspired Bible in your hand and not understand it apart from illumination.

Psalm 119:18

¹⁸ Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

These are interesting words.

A part of him knows that which he never knew before.

A part of him sees that which he never saw before.

The spiritual man walking with divine illumination will be a mystery to those about him (vv. 15-16).

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

These individuals march to the beat of a different drummer.

They cannot understand us because we have the mind of Christ, and they can't understand Christ

There are some lessons, therefore, we need to learn about illumination and supernatural knowledge.

1. This does not mean that we know everything about God.

Deuteronomy 29:29

²⁹ The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

You may go down to the ocean and dip out a bucket full. It will be all ocean in the bucket but not all of the ocean will be in the bucket.

2. Illumination does not extend to other areas beyond the Word of God. It will not help you in a Math examination.

3. Illumination does not mean that we are not to study.

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. Illumination does not mean there are no spiritual requirements.

1 Peter 2:1-2

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

5. Illumination does mean that the ordinary Christian who is obedient and diligent can understand the Word of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath

chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence. ³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Close:

This kind of Bible study is the way to a flaming heart and great joy.

Luke 24:45

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luke 24:32

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?