

The Royal Route to Heaven

1 Corinthians Chapter 2

In Chapter 1 of Paul's letter, he differentiated between the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God, and in Chapter 2 we find the importance of understanding the difference between the material and the spiritual. As we desire to walk the Royal Route, we must turn away from the path of flesh and the world and instead seek to follow the Spirit of God.

Begin your study with prayer.

Key Words

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. How many times do you find the word "spirit" in this chapter?

a. List the different types of "spirit" that are referenced.

b. Write a definition for spiritual.

2. Look for any other repeated words or themes and share what you find below.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Here Paul is remembering when he first came to Corinth. We are given some insight into his fears in Acts 18:9-10, when the Lord spoke to him about his visit to Corinth.

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you..." Acts 18:9-10

We know of the fruit of this visit by the establishment of the church, but in these five verses we read of how Paul preached when he came.

1. Paul declares the simplicity of his focus in verse 2. Complete this verse below.

For I determined not to know anything among you except _____
and _____.

2. Write what you find from verses 1, 3 and 4 about how Paul came to them.
 - a. What do you see of the attitude of Paul?
 - b. What did verse 4 tell us that his speaking demonstrated?
 - c. What does this mean?
3. From verse 5, why was it important that Paul did not speak from his own intellect or training?
4. How does 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 encourage anyone who feels inadequate to share the gospel?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-11.

In this section of Chapter 2 we find an explanation of how every Christian has access to instruction on how to walk the Christian walk on the Highway to Heaven.

1. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 speaks of wisdom.
 - a. Verse 6 says, “...*we speak wisdom among those who are mature...*” Share your thoughts on what *mature* means.
 - b. What is the wisdom they spoke “*not*”?
 - c. What was the wisdom they spoke of?

Paul called this wisdom a mystery. Alan Redpath explained the mystery like this: “What is a mystery? Is it something you cannot understand? No, in scripture it is something that once was hidden but now is revealed: “God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit” (2:10).” To unbelievers this mystery is still hidden.

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that You have hidden these things from [the] wise and prudent and
have revealed them to babes. Matthew 11:25

2. 1 Corinthians 2:9 talks about things seen and unseen, things God has prepared for us.

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

“How often we have heard this verse quoted concerning heaven. “It certainly applies to heaven; but in context, it is talking about what we have right now because of the cross. People are blind to the glorious grace and forgiveness of God that could be theirs if they would only accept Jesus. How many of us really appreciate what we have right here and now?” (Chuck Smith)

Take time now to stop and consider those things God prepared before hand that you are enjoying right now. Write a few of them down here and thank the Lord for them.

3. 1 Corinthians 2:9 refers to *“The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

How do the following scriptures describe *“those who love Him”*?

a. Psalm 40:8

b. 1 John 2:15

c. What would you add to this description? Include scriptures if you can.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-16.

1. 1 Corinthians 2:12 tells us that we have *not* received the spirit of the world.

a. Who has been given to us that we might know the spiritual things of God?

b. What does John 14:26 add to this?

2. Read Ephesians 1:16-21 and write some of the things that are revealed to be ours by “*the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*”

3. Many of the truths we know about God are written in His Word, yet it takes the Holy Spirit to give us understanding. In the space below, share one or two of the things that you understand now that you are a believer, but that you did not understand before you were saved. Or share how He led you to an answer to a question you had.

4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Note that it says we are “*to lean not on our own understanding*”. What mistakes might we as believers make if we rely on natural wisdom?

a. How did the Lord correct Samuel when he relied on his own wisdom? 1 Samuel 16:6,7

b. To avoid these mistakes, what safeguard do we find in James 1:5?

c. What have you personally experienced through the application of this verse?

5. Paul explained *how* he spoke the truths he shared with the believers in 1 Corinthians 2:13-14.

a. Explain how Paul did and did not speak “*these things*”.

b. Why was it important that Paul speak in this way? (You might also look back at 1 Corinthians 2:5.)

4. In 1 Corinthians 2:16 we read, “*For ‘who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?’ ...*” We have already seen in this chapter that man cannot know or understand the things of God in his own mind, but God has made a way for us to understand spiritual things. Write out the last phrase of this verse and explain what it means for us.

In this verse, having the mind of Christ refers to spiritual discernment. Chuck Smith on spiritual discernment: “The things of the Lord cannot be understood apart from the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. It isn’t just that the natural man chooses not to understand or doesn’t take the time to understand, but he can’t know them because they are spiritually discerned. This is why it is fruitless to try to argue with non-Christians about Christian theology. They don’t have the spiritual capacity to understand. What they need to hear is the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. Anything else is putting the cart before the horse.”

5. Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 and write what you find in this example of spiritual discernment.

In closing...

1. Why is it important that “Christ crucified” be the central message for all who are ministers of the Word?

2. Since unbelievers cannot understand the deeper things of God, what is the message we can and should share with them?

"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. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you. John 16:13-14