

I Corinthians 2:6-16

Spiritual Discernment

Introduction:

When we think of the title, Spiritual Discernment, we are ascertaining the things with a definite confidence. The Holy Spirit gives us a certainty and assurance regarding our own salvation as well our own maturity in Christ. The psalmist sang about God's illumination of His word: "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law." (Psa. 119:18)

Martin Luther said, "The Bible cannot be understood simply by study or talent; you must count only on the influence of the Holy Spirit." John Calvin wrote: "The testimony of the Spirit is superior to reason. For these will not obtain full credit in the hearts of men until they are sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit." When we are influenced by the Spirit we shall grow more and more in spiritual discernment.

I. Natural Wisdom – v. 6-9

A. Maturity – 3:1; Heb.6:1

1. What exactly is behind the thinking of worldly wisdom and worldly rulers?
(Orgien and Chrysostom)
2. The prince of darkness – II Cor. 4:4 (Francis Schaffer's book, "A Christian Manifesto" Lex Rex)

B. Rulers of this age

1. Jewish and Roman authorities – (Acts 3:17; 4:5,8,26)
2. Carrying out murderous acts – Mark 1:24; John 19:11)
3. Crucified the Lord of glory (the most loftiest title – 1:31)

C. Mystery – (secret) v.7

1. Not a puzzle but a secret not revealed yet.
2. Old Testament secrets – Turn To: Eph. 3:2-12
3. No after thoughts with God – "predestined" Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:18
4. Heaven – v.9 "God has prepared"

II. Spiritual Discernment – v. 10-16

A. Great emphasis on the Holy Spirit – v.10

1. The deep things of God – Rom. 11:33
2. Paul's Analogy – (man's spirit) v.11

B. The Christian's influence by the Spirit v.12

1. The Spirit's doctrine – Gal. 3:2
2. The deception of false teachers – Gal. 5:16

C. The Spirit our teacher – v. 13-16

1. The presence of the Spirit makes all the difference – v.14
2. The presence of the Spirit gives one the ability to accept the things of the Spirit – 1:18, 21, 23
3. The reaction of those who have not the Spirit – Turn To: John 8:45-59

Conclusion:

Without the Spirit you cannot believe the gospel message. Only the regenerate can appraise spiritual things. Only those born of the Spirit understand "The mind of the Lord" and therefore the mind of Christ.

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