

# Searching A Mystery

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.  
~1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:10 (NASB)**

## **1) Purposeful Weak Preaching**

- A) Reasoning that when a person “boasts,” or “provides a reason for why one is a follower of Christ,” they should give the attention to Jesus Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:29-31), Paul recalls his own “weak” preaching (2:1).**
  
- B) There is a certain irony for the Corinthians in remembering Paul’s preaching. Clearly, his preaching was not considered weak (cf. 1:12-13), so he intentionally “re-caps” his words (2:1-5).**
  
- C) In the most clear manner yet, Paul notes that the only thing which matters in preaching is a focus on “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (2:2).**
  
- D) This singular focus on Christ is sufficient for salvation (the beginning of life), sanctification (growing in life), and ultimate glory (the ultimate future of life). True wisdom is only found in Jesus Christ and His saving death on the cross (2:5).**

## **2) God's Wisdom Cannot Be Fathomed**

- A) Clearly, Paul's point is that the wisdom of God cannot possibly be fathomed through worldly means (2:6). God's wisdom is a "mystery" (2:7).**
  
- B) God's wisdom is for the "mature" (2:6). The Corinthians would have thought of themselves (in misplaced arrogance) as amongst the mature because of their connection with Christ!**
  
- C) But Paul makes the specific point that the wisdom which is of God extends back before the beginning, into the present day, and will extend into future glory (2:7-8).**
  
- D) In other words, worldly wisdom is limited, finite, and bound by each generation's ability to grab hold of a previous generation's collected wisdom.**
  
- E) But Jesus (the wisdom of God) is eternal, no beginning, and no ending... Man's wisdom has tried to kill God's wisdom, but cannot (2:8-10).**

## **3) How Then, Can Anyone Be Wise?**

- A) "The things of God" (2:9-10) are revealed through an extraordinary transaction between man and Christ. This exchange provides the wisdom of God for man... But how is this possible?**
  
- B) God reveals His wisdom by placing His Spirit within the souls of His people. Rather than be controlled by our own flesh, we can be controlled by God's timeless Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ!**