

Sermon Notes

Revealed & Received

First Corinthians 2:6-16 March 1, 2015

Introduction & Review

The blessedness and the problems of the Corinthian Church were addressed by the Apostle Paul. The root of their problems were all about pride. This is what led to their squabbles and divisions...and led to their other confusions and problems as well. This is what opens the door to all kinds of problems; in churches then, and in churches today. As Paul dealt with these problems, his summary was “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Up to this point, we could summarize 1st Corinthians this way: (1) Look at what the Lord has done, (2) Look at the Lord’s calling of you, and (3) Look at how God called you. However, not everyone gets this.

There are Differences

When it comes to the Gospel, why is it that some “get it” and others do not? What’s the difference? Why is it that people can look at the same world, or hear the same message, and some see a completely different world and hear a completely different message? Paul’s answer is found in verses 10 & 12. The initial answer is found in what is **revealed** and in what is **received**. Both!

Not just revealed...

The “mere” fact of revelation is not enough. There’s plenty of data and plenty of information out there. God has revealed Himself clearly, accurately, and openly through His works, and people still come to different conclusions. There is more to it than the existence of apple trees, seas, and moths. The Christian and the non-Christian will have differences over these as well. The “facts” don’t seem to be enough.

Example: Matthew 28 & the risen Lord.

It’s more than just the dirt and data or the flowers and the facts which are seen. Paul is careful to add, “God has revealed them to us through His Spirit” (2:10). Thus, revealed *and* received: “Now we have *received*, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God” (2:12).

We know this to be true...

The Lord does this kind of revealing and allows for this reception to occur by His Holy Spirit. It must be this way, for only God truly knows God: revelation must happen if we are to know anything about God. All of this is illustrated by pointing to something—or someone—we all know: ourselves. There are things about you that only you know...and these things will remain unknown unless they are made known; told; revealed...and even then they are not known as you know them.

As this is true for us (on our small level), this is also true for the Lord. Only His Spirit knows and can make known what is called “the things of God” (2:11) or “the deep things of God” (2:10) or “the mind of Christ” (2:16).

This is Essential & Offensive

We would know nothing about the Lord unless He created us and chose to reveal Himself. It is *essential* that the Lord reveal Himself. However, there is an important distinction to recognize...

We could recognize the mere fact of God revealing Himself and the revealing that is spoken of in this passage. The mere fact that God has revealed Himself does not result in other receiving Him, or acknowledging Him. The fact is, God has revealed Himself, and some are busy denying it (see Romans 1:18-20).

However, the revealing which is spoken of in this passage is joined with the activity of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to receive ‘the things of God.’ Without this work of the Holy Spirit, we would be in the face—or presence—of all this revelation without any ability to see or hear or participate: it would seem like foolishness.

“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

This is also *offensive* because it is not a matter of intellect, attainment, history, heritage, or upbringing. This is not up to you. This is a matter of grace: “things you have been freely given” (2:12), and this is where grace is offensive.

An Astonishing Connection

Paul goes on to connect his preaching with that which is revealed by the Holy Spirit: “These things which we speak...” (2:13). These things that are not gotten by the “natural man”, and a natural man is one who does not have the Spirit; i.e., this is a contrast between non-Christians and Christians.

Some Concluding Thoughts

The Role of Revelation

The Mind of Christ

