

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 2

**1. And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.**

**A. And I,**

1. Paul, the illustrious apostle.

**B. brethren-** Gr. **adelphos-** *one who shares the same womb*

1. Again, this is a term of endearment. Correction always goes down better with a dose of love.

**C. when I came to you,**

1. **came-** Gr. **erchomai-** *to come or arrive at*

**D. did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God**

1. **come-** Gr. **erchomai**

2. **excellence-** Gr. **huperoche-** *elevation, pre-eminence, superiority, rare quality*

a. Paul was a poor public speaker- this gives me comfort somehow. [2 Cor. 10:10](#), [2 Cor. 11:6](#)

3. **speech-** Gr. **logos-** *word, message, speech*

4. **wisdom-** Gr. **sophia-** *skill, wisdom*

5. **declaring-** Gr. **kataggello-** *to declare completely*

6. **testimony-** Gr. **marturion-** *witness, testimony*

a. Some manuscripts read here “the mystery” of God. The mystery is the truths of the New Covenant to the church in this dispensation of grace.

b. The gospel is the testimony of God. When you share the gospel, you are sharing God's testimony! Will you share God's testimony for Him in the earth?

**2. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

**A. determined-** Gr. **krino-** *to make a decision based upon evidence*

1. Paul had a first class education. When he was young in ministry he

tried to depend on his superior knowledge of the OT to minister. This usually just led to arguments with people.

2. Paul had even studied the literary works of the Gentiles thinking it would help him out on the mission field. Paul tried to use this in the previous city he had just come from-Athens. He debated with some Greeks on Mars Hill and tried to use their own literary works to convince them about Jesus. By in large it did not work. He had little fruit in Athens. Paul trying to use his great intellect and knowledge to minister was just not working. Based upon this evidence he decided to stick to the simple gospel message that Jesus was God in the flesh, he lived a sinless life for us, died in our place, and was resurrected. Paul experienced the power of God flowing in testimony to this message and people's lives were transformed.

**B. know-** Gr. **eido-** *to know fully*

1. Paul decided that even though he thought he knew many things, the one thing he fully knew was that Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and was our Savior.

**C. crucified-** Gr. **stauroo**

1. If you come with a crucified message you will great resurrection results!

**3. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.**

**A. I was with you in weakness,**

1. **weakness-** Gr. **astheneia-** *want of strength, weakness, of the soul-want of strength and capacity requisite to do things great and glorious*

a. Paul could not trust in his superior intellect and knowledge to do anything for God in this heathen city. If he tried to bring up Moses they just stared at him and asked, "Who is Moses?" If he tried to bring up Abraham they just stared at him and asked, "Who is Abraham?" He could not rely on his great public speaking skills. He had none. He was a lousy public speaker. He only had the simple gospel message left in his sermon bag and complete trust on God! That was enough!

**B. and in much trembling**

1. **trembling-** Gr. **tromos-** *quaking with fear*

a. Paul trembled in self-distrust and a full knowledge of his own inability to do anything or to protect himself. His trust was in God who raises the dead in case he was killed for preaching the gospel.

**4. And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**

**A. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom,**

**1. speech-** Gr. **logos-** *word*

a. Speech refers to teaching. Paul taught and preached. Preaching is mostly for unbelievers. Believers need to be taught primarily. However, we all need some good preaching from time to time!

**2. preaching-** Gr. **kerugma-** *heralding a message*

a. Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**3. persuasive words-** Gr. **peithos logos**

a. A good talker can persuade many people about many things. It is not hard to fool many Christians especially when it appeals to the flesh.

**4. human wisdom-** Gr. **anthropinos sophia**

**B. but in demonstration of the Spirit and power**

**1. demonstration-** Gr. **apodeixis-** *showing off, manifestation, demonstration, indubitable proof*

a. The Holy Spirit loves to show off when it brings glory to Jesus!

**2. Spirit-** Gr. **pneuma**

a. This is the manifestation of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

**3. power-** Gr. **dunamis**

a. This is referring specifically to the three power gifts- healings, miracles, and gift of faith.

b. A true NT Evangelist operates in the power gifts. Paul operated in the evangelist office when he preached the gospel in a new area.

c. An apostle can and will at times minister in the other four equipping offices for a specific time to establish a work-prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher. He does not operate in all four at the same time. This will be more so if there are no other ministry gifts present to fulfill those roles. If there are prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers around then these should be called in to function in their gifts. However, if they are not, then an apostle can function in each of these if and when they are needed.

**5. that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

**A. faith-** Gr. **pistis-** *firm persuasion based upon evidence*

1. Faith is based upon spoken words. Faith cannot be maintained based upon man's word because it so often is false, twisted, or inconsistent. Sustained faith only comes from hearing the Word of God that is true and never changes.

**B. wisdom of men-** Gr. **sophia anthropos**

1. Ultimately the wisdom of man is the wisdom of satan.

**C. power-** Gr. **dunamis**

1. God has spoken over us that His power is at our disposal. [Eph. 6:10](#)  
We can have faith in that!

**6. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.**

**A. However,**

**B. we speak wisdom among those who are mature,**

1. **speak-** Gr. **laleo**

2. **wisdom-** Gr. **sophia**

a. Paul mentions wisdom 18 times in 1 Corinthians. This is because the Greeks put so much emphasis and importance on wisdom. Often a Christian must flush out the beliefs, customs, and ways of the world he comes out of to conform his thinking to the Word of God.

3. **mature-** Gr. **teleios-** *brought to completion; fully accomplished, fully developed, fully realized, thorough, complete, entire, as opposed*

*to what is partial and limited, full grown of ripe age, fully accomplished in Christian enlightenment, perfect in some point of character, without shortcoming in respect of a certain standard, perfect, consummate, compare. of higher excellence and efficiency, end; mature; perfect.*

a. This word was used of initiates into the mystery cults prevalent at the time.

**C. yet not the wisdom of this age,**

1. **wisdom**- Gr. **sophia**

2. **age**- Gr. **aion**- *time period*

a. The wisdom of this age is earthly, sensual, demonic. [James 3:15](#)

b. Babes in Christ are often steeped in the wisdom of the world. Thus they are deceived into thinking they are more mature than they are. They need their mind renewed to the Word and become spiritually mature.

**D. nor of the rulers of this age,**

1. **rulers**- Gr. **archon**- *one invested with power and dignity, chief, ruler, prince, magistrate, leader; prince; ruler*

a. This can be both satan's spiritual rulers and natural rulers. Both were involved in the crucifixion of Jesus. [vs. 8](#) That being said natural rulers are probably are being referred to here.

2. **age**- Gr. **aion**- *time period*

**E. who are coming to nothing**

1. **coming to nothing**- Gr. **katargeo**- *to render useless or unproductive, occupy unprofitable, to render powerless, to make empty and unmeaning, to render null, to abrogate, cancel, to bring to an end, to destroy, annihilate, to free from, dissever from, destroy; nullify; release.*

a. The rulers of this age really think they are going places, but they are coming to nothing!

**7. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,**

**A. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,**

**1. speak-** Gr. **laleo**

a. It is our job to speak and the Holy Spirit teaches and reveals.

[1 Cor. 2:13](#)

**2. wisdom-** Gr. **sophia**

a. When you speak forth the gospel of Jesus Christ you are speaking forth the wisdom of God!

**3. mystery-** Gr. **musterion**

a. The mystery is the New Covenant of grace given for this dispensation given to the church of Jesus Christ. The mystery is what Christ accomplished by the cross and resurrection and the inclusion of both believing Jews and Gentiles into the church.

b. The church age was a mystery in the OT. The first and second advent of Christ were prophesied but there was no mention of the church age. It was a mystery hidden in God now revealed. Paul talked a lot about this mystery of the church and the Gentiles being included with the believing Israel. [Rom. 11:25](#), [Rom. 16:25](#), [1 Cor. 2:7](#), [1 Cor. 15:51](#), [Eph. 1:9](#), [Eph. 3:3-4](#), [Eph. 3:9](#), [Eph. 5:32](#), [Eph. 6:19](#), [Col. 1:26-27](#), [Col. 2:2](#), [Col. 4:3](#), [1 Tim. 3:9](#), [1 Tim. 3:16](#), [Rev. 1:20](#)

c. The disciples thought Jesus was going to set up his Millennial kingdom immediately. They did not know about the church age. [Acts 1:6-7](#)

**B. the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory**

**1. hidden-** Gr. **apokrupto-** *to hide away*

**2. ordained-** Gr. **proorizo-** *to mark off with a boundary, horizon, to ordain*

**3. ages-** Gr. **aion-** *time periods*

a. There are time periods spoken on in the Word of God. [1 Cor. 10:11](#), [Eph. 2:7](#), [Eph. 3:5](#), [Eph. 3:9](#), [Col. 1:26](#), [Heb. 9:26](#) These are also called dispensations. We are now in the dispensation of the grace of God- the church age. [Eph. 3:2](#) Jesus created these time periods. [Heb. 11:3](#)

**4. glory-**Gr. **doxa**

a. We are called to the glory of Jesus. [John 17:17](#), [Rom. 9:23](#), [1](#)

[Cor. 2:8](#), [2 Cor. 4:17](#), [Col 1:27](#), [Col. 3:4](#), [1 Th. 2:12](#), [2 Th. 2:14](#), [2 Tim. 2:10](#), [Heb. 2:10](#), [1 Pet. 1:7](#), [1 Pet. 5:1](#), [1 Pet. 5:10](#), God will not share His glory with any other, but we are not any other!  
We are members of His own body!

**8. which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**A. which none of the rulers of this age knew;**

1. **rulers-** Gr. **archon-** *one invested with power and dignity, chief, ruler, prince, magistrate*
  - a. Again, this could refer to the natural rulers that crucified Jesus such as Pontius Pilate and Caiaphus or it could refer to the spiritual rulers who influenced the natural rulers to do it. It probably refers to the natural rulers that crucified the Lord.
2. **age-** Gr. **aion-** *time period, age*
3. **knew-** Gr. **ginosko-** *to know by experience or relationship*
  - a. The rulers did not know Jesus in relationship. We can only do that through faith in Him.

**B. for had they known,**

1. **known-** Gr. **ginosko-** *to know by experience or relationship*
  - a. Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him and said they did not know what they were doing. [Luk 23:34](#)
  - b. The rulers crucified Jesus because they did not know Him nor His Father. [Joh 16:3](#)

**C. they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**

1. **crucified-** Gr. **stauroo**
  - a. The natural rulers would not have crucified Him because they would have known Jesus then they would have believed upon Him as Savior and had a personal relationship with Him. They would have not hated him. They would know Jesus was love personified and wanted their best.
  - b. The wicked spiritual rulers would not have crucified Jesus if they knew by crucifying Him instead of getting rid of Him, He would resurrect and reproduce himself millions of times over in His believers!

## 2. Lord of glory- Gr. kurios doxa

- a. This speaks of the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a title given to God and is used in [Psalms 24](#)- In that psalm the "Lord of glory" was also called the "Lord of Hosts". Jesus is God in the flesh!

## 9. But as it is written: "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."

### A. But as it is written,

#### 1. written- Gr. grapho

- a. [Is. 64:4](#)

### B. Eye has not seen,

#### 1. eye- Gr. ophthalmos

- a. We get our word ophthalmology from this word.

#### 2. seen- Gr. eido- *to know by perception or to see*

### C. Nor ear heard,

#### 1. ear- Gr. ous

#### 2. heard- Gr. akouo

- a. This verses stresses that we can't access the spiritual realm by our five senses. We must operate in and with the spiritual realm by faith.

### D. Nor have entered into the heart of man,

#### 1. entered- Gr. anabaino- *to step up, or arise*

#### 2. heart- Gr. kardia

- a. The heart is the spirit and soul of man. There is a spiritual side to our heart and a soulful side to our heart. Our heart can be divided. The goal of the Christian life is to be single hearted towards God- our soul lining up with our reborn spirit.

#### 3. man- Gr. anthropos

- a. This speaks of the natural man. Natural man can't discern spiritual things. They are spiritually discerned. You must be born again and have your spirit quickened to spiritually discern the things of God.

## **E. the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**

1. **prepared-** Gr. **hetoimazo-** *to make ready, prepare, to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready, metaphorically drawn from the oriental custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable*

### **2. love**

- a. This comes from a relationship with the Lord Jesus by faith.
- b. Many have taken this verse out of context and teach that no one, even Christians, can know or see what God has provided for us. However, if you keep reading on to the next verse we see that God has revealed these things to us who are born again and can spiritually discern the things of God.
- c. These spiritual things were revealed to the holy apostles who wrote scripture, were transmitted to us by divine inspiration, and illuminated to us by the Holy Spirit. [Believer's Bible Commentary]
- d. Many consider these spiritual things the glories of heaven, and it can mean that, but primarily Paul is speaking about the new covenant truths that come with the new birth.

## **10. But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.**

### **A. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit**

1. **revealed-** Gr. **apokalupto-** *to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up*

- a. They were first revealed to the apostles and now unto us believers.
- b. One of the main ministries of the Holy Spirit in the church is to reveal spiritual truths to us. [Joh 14:26](#), [Joh 16:13](#)

### **2. Spirit-** Gr. **pneuma**

- a. The Holy Spirit who is in connection to our reborn spirit illuminates spiritual truths to our spirit.

### **B. For the Spirit searches all things,**

1. **Spirit-** Gr. **pneuma**

2. **searches-** Gr. **ereunao-** *to search, examine into*

a. If the Holy Spirit searches into the things of God, don't you think we should also?!

b. As we search into the things of God through prayer and study of the Word the Holy Spirit reveals these things to us. We have a part to play in this.

C. **yes**- Gr. **kai**- *and, also*

D. **the deep things of God**

1. **deep things**- Gr. **bathos**- *depth, fullness, abundance, immensity*

a. In heaven we will know as we are fully known. [1 Cor. 13:12](#)

**11. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**

**A. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?**

1. **man**- Gr. **anthropos**

2. **knows**- Gr. **eido**

3. **things of man**

a. The things inside of man.

4. **spirit**- Gr. **pneuma**

a. The Spirit of God searches and examines all of what is in God. Our spirit likewise searches out what is in us. [Prov. 20:27](#)  
By the Holy Spirit's aid our spirit can shed light on the darkness in us and bring revelation, illumination, and freedom in those areas.

**B. Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**

1. **Even so**

2. **knows**- Gr. **eido**

3. **things of God**

4. **Spirit**

a. Those who have the Holy Spirit can know the things of God. Those who do not it is impossible. They are in the dark about God.

**12. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from**

**God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

**A. Now we have received,**

1. **have received-** Gr. **lambano-** *to receive (what is given), to gain, get, obtain, to get back*

a. Our prayer life is not about trying to get God to give us things, but receiving what He has already freely given to us through what Jesus did.

**B. not the spirit of the world,**

1. **spirit-** Gr. **pneuma**

2. **world-** Gr. **kosmos**

a. This is the spirit of Anti-Christ. [1 John 4:3](#)

**C. but the Spirit who is from God,**

1. This is the Holy Spirit

2. The Holy Spirit will lift up and point to Jesus Christ.

**D. that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

1. **might know-** Gr. **eido-** *to know or see by perception*

a. This is the greatest need of every Christian. They need to know what already belongs to them through Christ.

2. **freely given-** Gr. **charizomai-** *to give as a grace gift*

a. We don't deserve anything we receive from God. Jesus deserves them. By our faith in Him and faith in His perfect obedience to God in our behalf we can receive freely all things God has. [Rom. 5:19](#), [Rom. 8:32](#)

b. All things that belongs to the Father belongs to His Son Jesus. In turn Jesus has freely given us all those things. [Joh 16:14-15](#); [Rom 8:32](#)

**13. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

**A. These things we also speak,**

1. **we speak-** Gr. **laleo**

a. Notice Paul says we speak, but the Holy Spirit does the teaching. God uses man as His mouth piece but the Holy Spirit

does the spiritual work of teaching by the anointing. [1 John 2:27](#)

**B. not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches,**

1. **words-** Gr. **logos**

2. **wisdom-** Gr. **sophia**

3. **Holy Spirit teaches**

a. The Spirit of God does the spiritual work of teaching. God uses man as a mouth piece for the Spirit to teach through. [1 John 2:27](#)

**C. comparing spiritual things with spiritual**

1. **comparing-** Gr. **sugkrino-** *to joint together fitly, compound, combine, to interpret. to compare, to match, to estimate by comparing with something else*

2. **spiritual things-** Gr. **pneumatikos**

a. This could mean that the Holy Spirit combines spiritual truths with spiritual words. It could also mean that the Holy Spirit applies spiritual truths to spiritual people. It could also mean the Holy Spirit compares scripture with other scriptures to bring about interpretation. I believe all three are true, but in this context I am unsure which is being referred to.

**14. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

**A. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God,**

1. **natural man-** Gr. **psuchikos anthropos-** *soulish man*

a. A soulish man is dominated by his natural reason and analytical thinking.

b. A carnal man is controlled by his flesh. [1 Cor. 3:1](#) A soulish man is controlled by his soul- mind and emotions.

c. A spiritual man is dominated by his reborn spirit.

2. **receive-** Gr. **dechomai-** *to receive, welcome*

**B. for they are foolishness to him,**

**1. foolishness- Gr. moria**

a. The ideas of God and of a personal Savior who has died for our sins and who will hold us accountable for our actions are foolishness to an unbeliever.

**C. nor can he know them,**

**1. know- Gr. ginosko- to know in relationship**

a. If someone does not have a relationship with Jesus then they do not have the Holy Spirit. [Rom. 8:9](#) It is only by the Holy Spirit that we can spiritually discern the things of God.

b. Only the sheep of Jesus hear and understands His voice. [Joh 10:26-27](#)

**D. because they are spiritually discerned**

**1. spiritually discerned- Gr. pneumatikos anakrino**

a. The things of God are spiritually discerned through the reborn spirit by the Holy Spirit.

**15. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.**

**A. But he who is spiritual judges all things,**

**1. spiritual- Gr. pneumatikos**

**2. judges- Gr. anakrino- to investigate, examine, enquire into, scrutinize, sift, question**

**3. all things**

a. Notice that **things** are to be judged not people's heart. Spiritual people do not judge people. They judge things. It is unspiritual people that try to judge people. They always judge wrongly when they do this. Only God is the judge over people's hearts. We can judge actions and things but not people's hearts and motives. Only God fully knows those.

b. A spiritual person will judge things in the light of the Word [commandments] of God. [1Co 14:37](#)

**B. yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.**

**1. rightly judged- Gr. anakrino**

a. People will judge you but no one but God can rightly judge

you. You can judge others but you cannot rightly judge them. Only God can do that.

**2. no one**

a. No one has the right to judge your heart, and you have no right to judge anyone's heart.

**16. For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

**A. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him**

1. **known-** Gr. **ginosko-** *to be personally acquainted with or to know*

2. **mind-** Gr. **nous**

a. If you had to access the Lord's mind to instruct Him then you could not really instruct Him at all because you would be only speaking to Him what He already knew? This verse shows the absurdity of such thinking.

3. **instruct-** Gr. **sumbibazo-** *to cause a person to unite with one in a conclusion or come to the same opinion, to prove, demonstrate, to teach, instruct*

**B. but we have the mind of Christ.**

1. **mind-** Gr. **nous**

a. We have access to the mind [or thoughts] of Christ by way of His Spirit.

b. The written Word of God is the mind of Christ. The Spirit inspired the Word of God.

c. Since we have the mind of Christ, instead of trying to instruct God, we are to instruct spiritual men and women with His mind.