

I Corinthians 2: 1-9 God's Wisdom In A Mystery September 29, 2024

Intro: God will not use man's measures of success to accomplish his purposes. Through His own methods He will attract those who want to know the truth. He uses paradoxes and mysteries sometimes to do that.

Ex. 1: 18,21- A foolish message. **1:26** -A feeble-looking people. **2:3-4** -A weak-looking and weak- sounding messenger.

Ex. Advertising man - " All Jesus needed was a good P.R. man like myself, and he would have had them eating out of His hand!"

Text: 2:1-9 *****

2:1-2 Remember **1:17?** - ",,, **not in cleverness of speech.**" Paul will concentrate on the central truths so they don't fall back into pride. He gave them the unvarnished truth. "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" is an unpleasant message to the lost. The cross points up to us our desperate condition of heart. We don't need just a little make-over; we need a radical transformation! That is an insult to the arrogant, lost, blow-hards in Corinth. To the world, it does not look like power.

Ex. I Cor. 4:6-7 If you did not earn this new life in Christ ,but received it by simply believing the good news; then why act like they earned it?

2:3 Weakness, fear, trembling Paul was pretty worked over by this time. Having several things hit you in close order has accumulative affect.

Paul revealed to them the clear contrast between God's power working in him, and his personal frailty and weakness. A distinction he didn't mind letting people see. Paul's honesty might have been embarrassing to them.

Ex. A mystery- II Cor. 4:1-7 This treasure in an earthen vessel. **II Cor. 12:9-10** weak to strong.

Question: Who wants to feel that they are barely making it? Who wants to feel like they are beat down all the time? Have you ever asked yourself where you are getting these feelings?

The Corinthians were being "gas-lit," intimidated, made to feel small by the worldly-minded.

2: 4-5 The real power of a transformed life that is satisfying!

Question: Is John 10:10 really true? ",,, I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly."

2: 6-9 “ Hidden Wisdom” – Not obvious because of sin’s ability to blind people. This cannot be discovered by human reasoning and short-sighted human standards. Not hidden from someone really wanting the truth.

God draws people to Himself and then you decide if you will believe Him; trust Him. Then the mysteries and paradoxes start to make sense as you grow in grace. They bring a full range of blessings, both temporal and eternal.