

# Be Wise

1 Corinthians 2:1-8

# Question

- \*How do you feel about sharing the Gospel message of salvation to others?

## Barna Studies

- 1993, 89% of Christians who had shared their faith agreed that every Christian has a responsibility to do so
- 2018, this figure had decreased to 64%, indicating a 25-point drop over 25 years.
- The percentage of Christians who view evangelism as the local church's responsibility has risen from 10% in 1993 to 29% in 2018, nearly tripling during this period.

Among practicing Christian Millennials (Generation Y/ages 29-44), 96% acknowledge that being a witness for Jesus is a crucial aspect of their faith. However, 47% believe it is wrong to share one's faith with someone of a different religion

# The Great Commission

- Matthew 28:18–20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
- Mark 16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
- John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
- Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## 1 Cor. 2:1-8

- 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. 2 For I determined not **to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 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. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

## I. Wisdom of the World (2:1)

- Corinth's reputation for wickedness was known all over the Roman Empire. (Rom. 1:18–32 was written in Corinth!) Thanks to its location, the city was a center for both trade and travel. Money and vice, along with strange philosophies and new religions, came to Corinth and found a home there. Corinth was the capital of Achaia and one of the two most important cities Paul visited-  
Warren Wiersbe

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.

- Stoicism –belief in self-control and achieving personal virtue and self-sufficiency
- Epicureanism – advocated a life of pursuing pleasure and avoiding pain. Roman influence – the pursuit of public honor and power contrasted with Christian teaching on humility and servanthood.
- Philosophical eloquence - Corinth was a city that valued rhetoric, oratory, and intellectual discourse.
- Public debates and philosophical arguments were central to their cultural life.

Did not come  
with  
“Excellence of  
speech”

- John 16:8–10 And when He (Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;



## II. Wisdom of God (2:2-5, 7-8)

- A. Content of Wisdom – knowing Christ and His crucifixion (v. 2) – **For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**

# The Gospel

- 1. SIN - We are sinners who are lost and without a relationship with God because of our sins. Rom. 3:10, 23
- 2. PENALTY - Sin is repugnant in the eyes of a holy God. He can't let sin into Heaven. Sin needs to be paid for. Our punishment for sin is judgment in Hell. Rom. 6:23
- 3. LOVE - But, God loves us and didn't want us to pay the price for our sins. He sent His perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to come and die for us.
- 4. BELIEVE - Forgiveness of our sins comes by accepting God's gift of salvation. We believe that Christ paid the price and accept His gift. Confess that this is what you believe.

Romans 10:9-  
10

- Romans 10:9–10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

## II. The Wisdom of God

- B. Condition of Sharing -  
Brought in Weakness, in Fear and  
w Trembling (v. 3) - 3 I was with  
you in weakness, in fear, and in  
much trembling.

## Romans 1:16

- Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

## II. The Wisdom of God

- C. Communication of the Gospel - Speech and Preaching with the Power of the Holy Spirit (v.4-5) – 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God

## The Wisdom of Men

- The wisdom of men include:
  - 1. "Look out for number one."
  - 2. "The end justifies the means."
  - 3. "Money is the key to happiness."
  - 4. "Follow your heart"
  - 5. "Trust no one."

# The Holy Spirit

- John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.



## II. The Wisdom of God

- D. Contrary to God's wisdom -v. 6)– The Wisdom of Man -**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.**

# C.S. Lewis



"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

**C. S. Lewis**



## II. The Wisdom of God

- E. Conclusion (v. 7-8) - 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

## Some O.T. Scriptures on the Messiah

- **Gen 3:15 – The First Mention of the Gospel**
- **Gen. 12:1-3 – Abraham’s descendants would be a blessing to all families**
- **Isa. 7:14 – A virgin will give birth to a son, called Immanuel (God with us)**
- **Isa. 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**
- **Ps. 22 – “they pierced His hands and his feet”**
- **Isa. 53 – God placed all of our iniquities upon him**

# Getting God's Wisdom

- 1. **The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom:** Proverbs 9:10 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."
- 2. **Wisdom Provides Guidance:** Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
- 3. **Wisdom Protects and Rewards:** Proverbs 2:10-11 says, "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you."
- 4. **God's Wisdom is Available to All:** Proverbs 1:20-23 personifies wisdom, calling out to everyone, inviting all to seek it. "Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square..."

# Conclusion

- 1. Like Paul, be bold in your sharing of the Good News to others.
- 2. Rely on God's wisdom and power, not the wisdom and pursuits of man.
- 3. Get involved in sharing the Good News of the Gospel, individually and as a church
  - - Read an evangelism book –
  - - How to Give Away Your Faith – Paul Little
  - - The Reason for God – Tim Keller
  - - The Master Plan of Evangelism – Robert Coleman
- 4. Take opportunities to mix with those who need Christ

# Conclusion

**FREE LUNCH**

**COME JOIN US**

**MAY 17TH SATURDAY  
11AM-2PM**

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
FAIR**

**PRIZES  
GAMES  
PETTING ZOO  
RAFFLES**

**POLICE CAR  
FIRE TRUCK  
CLASSIC CARS**

**FREE EVENT**

**Fellowship Bible Church  
2710 Ralston Avenue  
Belmont, CA**