

Sunday, November 8, 2015—I Corinthians 2:7: Which None of the Princes of This World Knew

Introduction/Review

- Given the fact that it has been three weeks since our last study on I Corinthians, I want to take some time to review what we learned during our exposition of verses 6 and 7.
- In summation, we observed the following points regarding verse 6.
 - Paul was speaking wisdom “among them that are perfect” i.e., spiritually mature. Perfect in this verse does not mean without sin or sinless but mature.
 - I Corinthians 3:1-2
 - The wisdom Paul was speaking among the perfect was not from either of the following two sources: 1) the “wisdom of this world” or 2) the wisdom of “the princes of this world.”
 - Both of these two categories of wisdom: 1) the wisdom of this world and 2) the wisdom of the princes of this world will come to “nought” i.e., nothing.
- Regarding verse 7 we learned:
 - Paul was speaking the wisdom of God as it relates to something that was “wholly unknown” and “beyond human comprehension until explained.” In others words, Paul is speaking about a particular kind aspect of God’s wisdom that was fully outside of man’s wisdom or the princes of this world’s ability know until God revealed it and made it known. This is the wisdom that Paul was speaking among the perfect in verse 6.
 - *Even the Hidden Wisdom*—this phrase is elaborating on the nature of this wisdom of God in a mystery. It is the hidden wisdom of God. God hid this wisdom in himself. Not a single entity in God’s entire creation knew about “the wisdom of God in a mystery” until God chose to reveal it and make it known.
 - The wisdom of God in a mystery takes one back before Genesis 1:1. The hidden wisdom gives us insight into what God “ordained” and purposed to do “before the world unto our glory.” Ephesians 3:1-6—before the world began God in his wisdom purposed to usher in the dispensation of grace during which time he would form the church the body Christ. Herein lays the contents of the wisdom of God in a mystery that was first revealed and made known to the Apostle Paul.

I Corinthians 2:8

- **Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**
- *Which none of the princes of the world knew*—in verse 8 we again encounter the phrase “princes of this world” that we first encountered in verse 6.
- Please recall that the English word “princes” comes from Greek word *archōn* which means a ruler, commander, chief, or leader, according to *Strong’s Concordance*. The word is used describe human rulers as well as Satan and his minions.
 - Matthew 9:18, 23, 34; 12:24, 20:25
 - John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
 - Ephesians 2:2—the governmental structures of this earth are under the influence of the adversary.
- Ephesians 6:12-13
- Colossians 1:15-16—there are invisible structures of governmental authority in the heavens that are just as real as the ones people interact with on earth.
- Daniel 10:1-13, 20-21—the angel informs Daniel that he was detained by the “prince of the kingdom of Persia” and that Michael had to come and see him through to Daniel (Dan. 10:12-14). When the angles was finished delivering the message to Daniel, he contemplated his return journey and tells Daniel that he will have to “fight” with both the “prince of Persia,” and the “prince of Grecia” (Dan. 10:20).
- The indication from these verses is that there is political activity in the heavenly places that corresponds with political structures on earth.
- I Corinthians 2:6—it’s clear that Paul views “the wisdom of this world” and the wisdom of “the princes of this world” as two different things. Note the phrase “nor of” between “wisdom of this world” and “princes of this world.” In addition, Paul had much to say about the worthless nature of man’s wisdom in Chapter 1, the insertion of “the princes of this world” into the discussion here in Chapter 2 indicates that he views this as a separate category of “wisdom.”
- I Corinthians 2:8—what is it that none of the princes of this world knew? They did not know “the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the wisdom” from verse 7. Their wisdom first mentioned in verse 6 was not able to know, comprehend, or discern God’s hidden wisdom in verse 7.

- To be clear, the principalities and powers in heavenly, the rulers of the darkness of this world were not able, via their own wisdom, to know what God in his wisdom had kept secret.
- *for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*—therefore, they act in accordance with their own wisdom and so doing they bring about an event namely, the crucifixion of Christ that spoils all their best laid plans.
- If the “princes of this world” had known about the “wisdom of God in a mystery” they never would have crucified Christ.
- Ephesians 2:13-16—the revelation of God’s hidden wisdom to and through the Apostles Paul made known all the Christ accomplished at the cross. The revelation of the mystery made known that it was on the basis of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ, that God the Father was going to form his new creature, the church the body of Christ, that He would use to repossess the heavenly places back unto himself and dispossess the princes of the world.
- Colossians 2:14-15—the cross puts the principalities and powers to open shame because it was at the cross that God Almighty triumphed over them once and for all time.
 - I Corinthians 1:18—this is why Paul calls his message the preaching of the cross. Paul is preaching all that Christ accomplished on the cross.
- I Corinthians 2:7-8—God secures his ultimate victory by keeping a secret about what he intended to do before the foundation of the world in forming the body of Christ on the basis of the cross work his Son. Not knowing the wisdom that God chose to keep hidden in himself, the princes of the world bring about the pivotal event of history namely, the crucifixion of Christ completely ignorant of its full impact. Had they known about the wisdom of God in a mystery they never would have “crucified the Lord of glory.”
- Ezekiel 28:3-5—the contention between God and Satan was never about who was more powerful. Satan knew that he was a created being. Rather the contest was over who was wiser and more qualified to run the show. Satan’s original boast was that there was no secret that could be hid from him.
- I Corinthians 3:19—all God had to do to bring Satan’s entire wise plan to naught is simply keep a secret. By doing so, God took the wise one in his own craftiness. This is why Satan hates and opposes the wisdom of God in a mystery so vehemently because it puts him to open shame and reminds him that God took him in his own craftiness.
- Ephesians 3:9-10—when you and I preach and make known the mystery we proclaim, lift up, and extol the manifold wisdom of God throughout the heavenly places. Not only does this declaration of God’s wisdom places the current occupants of the heavenly places that their eviction has already been secured but it also puts them to open shame and reminds them of the failure of their own wisdom.

- This explains why more people don't know and appreciate the Grace Message or acknowledge Paul as their Apostle. This explains why Grace churches are typically small. Satan has opposed this message with a vehement ferocity so as to obscure it and hid it from the minds of believers.
- His policy of evil against what God is doing today has been widely effective in terms of obscuring the truth of what God is doing today during the dispensation of grace. Satan has succeeded in getting people to think and operate as though they are spiritual Israel seeking to live under the teaching and promises of a former dispensation.
- II Timothy 2:25-26—we who know better, who understand the wisdom of God in a mystery need to meekly instruct those who oppose themselves doctrinally.