

FIRST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Scripture Study

I Corinthians 2:1-16

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (v. 13).

“COMPARING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL”

THESIS: The Holy Spirit teaches the newly spiritual-born-believer in Christ Jesus the unseen things of God, which are undiscoverable by the natural man (v. 14).

OVERVIEW

As the Holy Spirit guides the Apostle Paul to address serious errors in doctrine, conduct and deepening divisions among and within the Corinthian church, we can see a clear picture of the classification of those who make up the congregations throughout that region. He refers to *three (3) types of man: the natural man, v. 14; the carnal, fleshly man, v. 1-4; and the spiritual man, v. 14b- 15*. Moreover, it is very important to understand the quality of the character of each person, which will be reviewed later. Remember, we’ve been taught that many “have a form of Godliness, but deny the power thereof” 2 Tim. 3:5.

The church here, as the church today, are faced with numerous attacks against God, Christ, His disciples, the teaching of Righteousness, salvation, sanctification and faith, among others. There was and is confusion among the household of faith. Conflict exists regarding what God has said concerning man (husband/father) and woman (wife/mother), and children = the family. The confusion and conflict has kept the church in a crises situation.

This is due to several contributing factors. There is careless teaching of the Word of God. The preaching of a contradictory gospel to the gospel of God is evident. Grace has been cheapened and made so easy; it does not require repentance, humility and full surrender to God through Christ, along with being and becoming a New Creation in Christ. The prerequisites for Salvation are clouded by “every wind of doctrine,” 1 John 1:9; Eph. 4:14. The comforting power of the Holy Spirit is concealed in the preaching, teaching and counseling within the church. The organized church leadership is now complying with the world’s wisdom and not the Wisdom from Above, the Wisdom of God granted through the Holy Spirit, so they can compare spiritual things with The Spirit (James 3:13-18). There is also the casting aside of the cross, which each is called upon to carry and/or bear (Mat. 16:24). The cross of responsibility. The cross of affliction and suffering. The cross of mistreatment. The cross of loving those who don’t love you. The cross of patience. The cross of the flesh. The cross of sin.

BODY

Let us now review the three (3) types of man described in this chapter by the Apostle Paul.

I The Natural Man

This is the Adamic man; the man of the senses; sensual (1 Cor. 2:14; Jam. 3:15). The Gk. Word for the natural man is “*psuchikos*,” meaning the man unregenerated, or made new through the new birth (John 3:3-7).

- 1. Receives not the things of the Spirit of God**
- 2. They are foolishness to him**
- 3. He is not in harmony with God’s Spirit**

NOTES

II The Carnal, Fleshly Man

This is the renewed man in Christ, who walking after the flesh remains a babe in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1-4). The Gk. word for the carnal, fleshly man is **“sarkikos,”** meaning sensual and controlled by fleshly appetites, governed by human nature, instead of by the spirit of God.

Reference Romans 8:1-13

1. The flesh minds things of the flesh, v. 5
2. The carnal mind is enmity against, God v. 7
3. If you live after the flesh you will die, v. 13

NOTES

III The Spiritual Man

This is the born again man, renewed by the Holy Spirit. He is the spiritual man, filled with the Holy Spirit and living in the Spirit in complete communion and conversation with God through Christ. The Gk. word for the spiritual man is **“pneumatikos”** meaning “the man who walks in the Spirit both in the sense of Gal. 5:16 and in that of 5:25, and who himself manifests the fruit of the Spirit in his own ways,” (Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of

OT & NT Words).

- 1. Walks to please God, Gal. 6:1; Prov. 16:7**
- 2. Is filled with the Spirit, Eph. 5:18**
- 3. Seeks Wisdom of God, 1 Cor. 2:5-8**

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