1 Corinthians 2 • Two Kinds of Wisdom

1. (v.1-8) The Gospel and the Mystery
   a. The Gospel (v.1-5)
      i. Not man-made, but God-inspired. (v.1)
      ii. Wholly focused on the work of the cross. (v.2)
      iii. Presented in genuine fear and humility. (v.3)
      iv. Not framed by man’s polished standards of oratory but genuine spiritual authority. (v.4)
      v. Not established by men, but Christ. (v.5)
   b. The Mystery (v.6-8)
      i. The “wisdom of men” must not pollute the Gospel; “God’s wisdom” is taught AFTER the Gospel is received.
      ii. A biblical “mystery” is truth revealed by the Holy Spirit only to those in God’s family.
      iii. It can only be understood through the Holy Spirit which can only come through the message of the Gospel and the work of the cross.
      iv. Paul elaborates on the details of this “mystery” in Ephesians 2-3.

2. (v.9-13) The “spirit of this world” and the “Spirit of God”
   a. The wisdom of the spirit of this world led men to crucify Christ originally and caused them to repeatedly crucify Him ever since.
   b. The wisdom of the Spirit of God is revealed through Spirit-filled Believers to whom the Word of God is revealed.

   a. The natural man “does not accept the things of the Spirit” because they have not accepted the Gospel and therefore fundamentally reject God’s Word.
   b. The spiritual man is able to evaluate all things by the Spirit because embracing God’s Word produces in them “the mind of Christ”.
   c. The first message initiates transformation; the second message completes the work of salvation.

4. Overall Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Wisdom of This World</th>
<th>The Wisdom of God</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A wisdom of words (1:7; 2:4)</td>
<td>A wisdom of power, not words alone (2:4-5)</td>
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<td>Man’s words (2:4)</td>
<td>The Spirit’s words (2:13)</td>
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<td>The spirit of the world (2:12)</td>
<td>The Spirit of God (2:14)</td>
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<td>Foolishness to God (1:20)</td>
<td>Foolishness to men (2:14)</td>
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<td>The philosopher (1:20)</td>
<td>The preacher (1:31; 2:4)</td>
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<td>Ignorance (1:21)</td>
<td>Knowledge of God (2:12)</td>
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Leads to condemnation (1:18) Leads to glory (1:18; 2:7)

The way someone handles Scripture reveals whether or not they have actually received the requisite “first” message of the Gospel. God’s wisdom is not present where there is no regenerate relationship established through the cross.