

<p>Bible Text English Standard Version</p>	<p>Observations What does the text say?</p>	<p>Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p>Applications What does it mean to me?</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5</p> <p>Christ the Wisdom and Power of God</p> <p>18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”</p> <p>20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach[b] to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.</p> <p>26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,[c] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being[d] might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him[e] you are in Christ Jesus, who became</p>			

First Love

Lesson 2

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

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<p>to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”</p> <p>2:1 And I, when I came to you, brothers,[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men[c] but in the power of God.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>b. 1 Corinthians 1:21 <i>Or the folly of preaching</i> c. 1 Corinthians 1:26 <i>Greek according to the flesh</i> d. 1 Corinthians 1:29 <i>Greek no flesh</i> e. 1 Corinthians 1:30 <i>Greek And from him</i> a. 1 Corinthians 2:1 <i>Or brothers and sisters</i> b. 1 Corinthians 2:1 Some manuscripts <i>mystery</i> (or <i>secret</i>) c. 1 Corinthians 2:5 The Greek word <i>anthropoi</i> can refer to both men and women</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			
<p>1 Corinthians 2:6-16</p> <p>Wisdom of the Spirit</p> <p>6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God</p>			

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<p>decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—</p> <p>10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.</p> <p>14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

Today's text tells us that the wisdom of the Spirit seems as foolishness to those who are of the world. How is the Holy Spirit directing you to follow His wisdom instead of the world's? How do the following verses support this truth?

Psalm 94:11

11 the Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.[a]

a: *they are futile*

Proverbs 3:5-7

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. **7** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

Isaiah 55:8-9

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. **9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

James 3:17

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Space for Grace

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Tell about a time in your life when God's wisdom was different from the wisdom of the world. What were the reactions of those around you? What were the consequences?
- Write a letter to God or the person in your life who best exemplifies the difference between these two types of wisdom and thank them for how they've shown you the Spirit's wisdom.
- Create two lists comparing the qualities of God's wisdom found in James 3:17 with contrasting qualities of the world's wisdom. Include examples from your life.

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Prayer Requests
