

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVII

July 6, 2008

No. 27

God's Wisdom

(Jerry Fite)

How could one ever distinguish between the wisdom of men and the wisdom of God? Do believers in God just arbitrarily attribute certain things to God, and others (especially if they appear to be unwise) to men?

Paul gives us some insight into this matter. *“Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, and which entered not into the heart of man, whatsoever things God prepared for them that love Him. But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”* (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

The immediate context of this statement to the Corinthians finds Paul emphasizing the distinction between man's wisdom and God's regarding God's plan in saving man. It is “wisdom not of this world...for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (I Corinthians 2:7-8). The broader context agrees: *“Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”* (I Corinthians 1:20).

God's plan to redeem us in Christ was not in accordance to man's wisdom for Christ crucified was unto Jews as a stumbling block, and unto Gentiles foolishness (I Corinthians 1:24).

Christ is “*the power of God*”, though in the crucifixion He looks weak in man's eyes, and He is “*the wisdom of God*” though in man's wisdom the Lord of glory dying on the cross looks foolish (I Corinthians 2:24). Christ, to those who have heeded the calling of God through the Gospel, is “*wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...*” (I Corinthians 2:30).

Believers therefore can look to God's plan to redeem man from sin through the gospel message as being the proof of the distinction between God's and man's wisdom. The message was a mystery hidden with God until it was revealed through the gospel of Christ. Paul emphasizes this when he writes, “*but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory*” (I Corinthians 2:7). Paul “*received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we*

might know the things that were freely given us of God; which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words” (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

This knowledge of salvation and redemption obtained through the gospel should cause us to exclaim with Paul, “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!*” *How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past tracing out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor?* (Romans 11:33-34).

But wait a minute. If modernists are right, and the word of God is not verbally inspired, upon what basis can we distinguish between wisdom of God and that of man? The believer understands with Paul that it is through God's revelation to man regarding his salvation that distinguishes God's and man's wisdom. If the Bible is merely of man, to what can we point, other than creation, as definitely manifesting God's wisdom, and not man's?