

**True Wisdom**  
**Lesson #16**  
**1 Corinthians 2:6-3:22**

1. Paul had written that the message he brought to the Corinthians may appear to those who are perishing as foolish, but for those being saved, it is the power of God! (1 Corinthians 1:18) When Paul brought that message, he said he did not use persuasive speech, so their faith would be based not upon *“men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”* (1 Corinthians 2:5) To whom did Paul say that he was able to speak the message of wisdom? (1 Corinthians 2:6a)
  
2. What did he say about that wisdom?
  - 1 Corinthians 2:6b
  
  - 1 Corinthians 2:7
  
3. What was that message of wisdom? (1 Corinthians 2:2)
  
4. What evidence did Paul give for the fact that this wisdom was hidden? (1 Corinthians 2:8)
  
5. Quoting from the prophet Isaiah, what did Paul say about this wisdom? (1 Corinthians 2:9)

**The Role of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:10-16**

6. Isaiah only saw glimpses of this wisdom, and yet Paul said that *“God has revealed it to us.”* That was made possible only through the Spirit of God. What is the Spirit’s role?
  - 1 Corinthians 2:10
  
  - 1 Corinthians 2:11
  
  - 1 Corinthians 2:12

7. Once again Paul denied that he spoke words of human wisdom. How did he describe the words that he spoke? (1 Corinthians 2:13)
8. What is the determining factor in whether or not someone is able to understand the wisdom of God? (1 Corinthians 2:14)
9. Read verse 15 and comment on what you think Paul's point was. Remember to keep it in the context of Paul's argument of wisdom (God's vs. man's.)
10. Paul concludes this argument with a quote from Isaiah 40:13, "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" What is Paul's beautiful application to this section? (1 Corinthians 2:16b)

**Reflect:** At this point I want to jump up and shout praise and thank you to our great and awesome God because he has done this for us! The world of Paul and our world today views the message of the cross as foolishness - - but for those who believe, it is the power of God. Take a few minutes to reflect on the promise in verse 16b, and the benefits associated with that.

### **Spiritual vs. Worldly - 1 Corinthians 3:1-17**

11. After describing the wonderful position that belongs to every believer, Paul returns to the reality of the situation in Corinth. How did Paul describe these brothers? (1 Corinthians 3:1)
12. Paul said he could only give them spiritual milk and not solid food. Why? (1 Corinthians 3:2)
13. What evidence did Paul point out to indicate that the church at Corinth was still worldly? (1 Corinthians 3:3, 4)
14. How did Paul describe Apollos and himself? (1 Corinthians 3:5a)
15. Who assigns the tasks? (1 Corinthians 3:5b)

16. Who is the one to cause growth? (1 Corinthians 3:6)
  
17. What does that mean for Paul and Apollos? (1 Corinthians 3:7)
  
18. Paul wrote that each person has one purpose, to fulfill his/her God-given task. What benefit did Paul say is associated with that? (1 Corinthians 3:8)
  
19. Using 1 Corinthians 3:9: What metaphors did Paul use to describe:
  - Apollos and himself?
  
  
  - The Corinthian believers?
  
20. Paul continued with that last metaphor, using 1 Corinthians 3:10:
  - How did Paul describe his part?
  
  
  - The role of other teachers?
  
  
  - What warning did he issue to everyone?
  
21. The true foundation has already been laid, it cannot be added to or changed, for the foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11.) But man builds on that foundation. In verse 12, Paul used gold, silver, costly stones (marble or granite) and wood, hay and straw to describe the types of materials that man uses to build with. That list can be divided in two. What do you think happens when the first group, gold, silver and costly stones are put into the fire?
  - What do you think happens when wood, hay or straw are put in the fire?
  
22. Keep those images in mind as you read verse 13. What will that fire do?

23. What will be the final result? (1 Corinthians 3:14, 15)
24. Review what the problem was that Paul was dealing with? (1 Corinthians 3:3)
25. Paul then moved to another metaphor, this one related to the individual believer. He described the physical body of the believer as "God's temple." What evidence did he give for that? (1 Corinthians 3:16)
26. What if someone destroys God's temple? (1 Corinthians 3:17a)
- Why? (1 Corinthians 3:17b)

**Foolishness of Worldly Wisdom - 1 Corinthians 3:18-23**

27. "Do not deceive yourselves" is very strong language. What deception was Paul warning them about? (1 Corinthians 3:18)
28. Why is the world's wisdom true foolishness? (1 Corinthians 3:19, 20)
29. Paul concluded with, "so then, no more boasting about men!" Why? (1 Corinthians 3:21, 22)