**I Corinthians 2:1-12**

***Through Different Eyes***

Introduction

1. Why do we see differently?

2. I Corinthians 2:1-12 God is at work in the world. To those of us who are believers from the beginning to the end, God did something supernatural within.

God is at work. Why do we see differently?

**I. GOD AT WORK IN SALVATION 2:1-5**

The Salvation thing is beyond us:

1. ***The Declaration of God 1***
2. The Greeks were masters at oratory…*excellency of speech…excellency of wisdom.* It doesn’t mean that he wasn’t organized or logical, but according to the world’s standards.
3. *Declaring unto you the testimony of God* He is the **Source…**He is the **Supplier…**He is the **Substance** of what is being presented. It’s not how clever we are. We have a responsibility to declare, to proclaim. No one else is going to do it.
4. Realize the awesomeness of the presentation…*the testimony of God*. The Good News is God’s Goodness. Don’t change it. Don’t compromise it. **We must give it!** His testimony is in our hands!!
5. ***The Determination of God 2***
6. Here is the reason Paul’s approach wasn’t with excellency of speech or wisdom.
7. *Jesus Christ and Him crucified*…that was foolishness to those who are perishing! That is the message that God uses to excite faith in us. It is not fancy rhetoric. It was just the plain, simple Gospel that was given to the highly sophisticated Corinthians.
8. When you talk about Jesus, keep it simple and never bypass the Cross!
9. ***The Demonstration of God 3-5***
10. **His Personal Inadequacy 3** This verse is a reference to the sense of his utter inadequacy to accomplish the task given to him by God. v. 4 makes it clear that he lived in complete dependence on God. He had no vote of confidence in himself.*Weakness* is no confidence in his own strength. *Fear* cannot be timidity. It is apprehension lest in any way he or the flesh gets in the way of God’s work. *Trembling* at the awesomeness of the task that God has lain before him. It’s beyond his ability or resources. **He must draw his strength from God!**
11. **His Public Insufficiency 4a** His preaching and speaking wasn’t marked by *eloquence* or persuasive words. He refused to use all the things the Corinthians loved and by which they judged a speaker. He did not rely on eloquence, oratory, clever style, beauty of diction. He would have gotten in the road of the message. *Persuasive words of wisdom…*he presented Jesus to the best of his ability. We are never good enough to fulfill our calling. He must do it through us!
12. **His Powerful Intermediary 4b-5** We speak and the Holy Spirit *that which works in us…demonstration of the Spirit and of power…*we say it and He does it! v. 5 *That your faith should stand…in the power of God* The word of the crucified Christ goes out and BAM!...the Holy Spirit takes it and turns it into life *(demonstration of the Spirit and of power).* Here is a spring board: *that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* The same power that saves us is the power that allows us to stand!

God is at work. Why do we see differently?

**II. GOD AT WORK IN SANCTIFICATION 2:6-12**

*The wisdom of men (v. 5) them that are complete (grown up in the Lord…saved)*

 *mature…*

1. ***The Divisiveness of God 6-8***
2. **Wisdom Proclaimed 6** *Wisdom of men…wisdom of this age…the wisdom of God…*

*However, we speak wisdom among them*

**\*Recipients…***them…mature…saved* or the opposite of *babes in 3:1*

**\*Resolve *Not*** *the wisdom of this age* ***Not*** *the leadership of this age…***that comes to nothing!** It's not that Paul doesn’t give out insight, but it’s different from what the world gives. The way to spiritual advancement is open to all. It takes times and obedience to assimilate God’s revelation. There are different stages of advancement.

  **2. Wisdom Prevented 7** *But we speak the wisdom of God*

 *Mystery* is something hidden in the past that is now revealed.

 *Wisdom…hidden…which God ordained.* The lost cannot receive spiritual truth.

 That’s why the lost looks at the world through different eyes. Spiritually dead

 people cannot understand spiritual truth. It is either the Gospel or spiritual

 insight. *It’s ordained by God!* He ordained it so!!

 **3. Wisdom Prohibited 8** None of the brain trust of this age can know it! *Had*

 *they known God’s hidden wisdom, they would not have crucified the Lord of*

 *glory.* Intellect or position doesn’t make it so. Smart people, if they are really

 smart, would receive Jesus the Lord of glory!

 ***B. The Dynamics of God 9-12***

Only the Holy Spirit can reveal the things of God!

1. **God’s Preparation 9** This is a quote from Isaiah 64:4. *The*

 *eyes…ears…hearts...are the way of access of man. The things God hath*

 *prepared for them that love Him.* The unbeliever isn’t wired up to receive

 spiritual things…prepared things for *those who love Him.* It is not smart

 people…positioned people..powerful people that get it. *It is those who love*

 *Him!* Think of all that God has prepared. **The lost can’t grasp it!**

1. **God’s Presentation 10** *But…God hath revealed them unto us*. What is *them?* It is the hidden things. *Mystery things* are only going to be revealed by the Holy Spirit. *By the Spirit…for the Spirit searches all things…ye deep things of God.* He is the One who lives in every believer and opens them to us!
2. **God’s Privatization 11** Who knows what’s in you…I mean really in you? *Only the spirit of man…even so…the things of God knows no man* ***But*** *(there is an exception) the Spirit of God.* No unbelieving man knows, because there is no receiver on the inside!
3. **God’s Publication 12** *We* Paul may be referring to the revelation *we have received.*

*\**Different Spirit…*not the spirit of this world* When we received Jesus, we received His Spirit and the ability to comprehend spiritual things.

*\**Divining Spirit...*That we might know the things freely given to us of God.*

 God not only saves us, but opens spiritual things to us!