

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins. Several tall, fluted columns stand in a row, supporting a partially collapsed entablature. In the background, a large, rugged mountain rises against a clear sky. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish-brown grass and some scattered stones.

Is Your Faith In  
The Wisdom of  
Men or The Power  
of God?

*1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup> However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, <sup>8</sup> which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## **I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. <sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> For "*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ.

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Paul's Preaching - (2:1-5)



1 Corinthians 2:1  
(NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>And I, brethren,  
when I came to you,  
did not come with  
excellence of speech  
or of wisdom  
declaring to you the  
testimony of God.

- ◆ **“Speech”** refers to his manner of speaking – **“wisdom”** refers to content - (*Not by eloquence or persuasive words such as characterized the sophists*)  
2:1,3,4; 2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6)
- ◆ **Paul declared the “Testimony of God”** – (*Some mss. have mystery*)  
– (1:6; 2 Thes. 1:10; 1 John 5:11-13; 2 Tim. 4:2)



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Paul's Preaching - (2:1-5)

✦ **The preaching of the cross – the central message of the gospel –**  
(2:2; 1:22-25; Luke 24:46,47)

1 Corinthians 2:2-5  
(NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For I determined  
not to know  
anything among you  
except Jesus Christ  
and Him crucified. . .



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Paul's Preaching - (2:1-5)

1 Corinthians 2:4-5  
(NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were . . . in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- ✦ **The preaching of the cross – the central message of the gospel –** (2:2; 1:22-25; Luke 24:46,47)
- ✦ **Paul's preaching was confirmed –** (1:5-7; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4; Mk 16:20; Rom 15:19)
- ✦ **"Their faith" was based upon the facts and confirmation of the gospel –** (*our faith is to be based upon the same confirmed word*) – (Rom. 1:16; 10:17)

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:6  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

- ♦ **True wisdom** – (2:6; Eph. 3:8-12; Jam. 3:13-18)
- ♦ **Those who are perfect** – (The spiritual, vs. 15) - (2:6; 14:20; Eph 4:11-13; Col. 4:12; Heb 5:14)
- ♦ **Human wisdom rejected Jesus – the rulers put Him to death** – (2:6,8; Acts 3:17; 13:27)
- ♦ **Those who trust in and follow human wisdom really have no faith at all** – (*Mat 15:7-9*)



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:7  
(NKJV)

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

- ♦ **The gospel could not be grasped by human wisdom – It had to be revealed** – (2:7; Rom. 16:25,26; Eph. 3:1-5; Col. 1:26,27; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)
- ♦ **The revelation of the gospel was for the apostles to superintend** – (John 16:13; Eph. 2:20; 4:11-13)
- ♦ **“Our glory” contrasted with the end of the rulers** – (2:6)

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:9  
(NKJV)

9 But as it is written:  
*"Eye has not seen,  
nor ear heard, Nor  
have entered into the  
heart of man The  
things which God has  
prepared for those  
who love Him."*

- ✦ **The gospel plan, as a scheme of redemption is something men did not conceive, nor could they – (Isa. 64:4; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)**
- ✦ **He's not speaking here of heaven, but of Gods' plan for salvation – (1 Pt. 1:12; Eph. 3:1-5)**



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:10  
(NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> But God has  
revealed *them* to us  
through His Spirit.  
For the Spirit  
searches all things,  
yes, the deep things  
of God.

- ✦ **The gospel plan, as a scheme of redemption is something men did not conceive, nor could they – (Isa. 64:4; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)**
- ✦ **He's not speaking here of heaven, but of Gods' plan for salvation – (1 Pt. 1:12; Eph. 3:1-5)**
- ✦ **The “US” is the apostles – The revealed message is a Divinely inspired message – (John 16:13; Eph. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:12; Deut. 29:29)**

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:11  
(NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- ★ **My thoughts are not known to you until I reveal them -**
- ★ **The illustration is that the Holy Spirit knows what God's plan is, and that we don't know it till he tells it to us - (2:11; Deut 29:29)**



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:12  
(NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

- ✦ **My thoughts are not known to you until I reveal them -**
- ✦ **The illustration is that the Holy Spirit knows what God's plan is, and that we don't know it till he tells it to us -**  
(2:11; Deut 29:29)
- ✦ **The Spirit is the agent of God's revelation -** (2:12; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; Eph 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## Mystery Revealed - (2:6-16)



1 Corinthians 2:13  
(NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- ♦ **The source of the “words” spoken by Paul was not man – but the Holy Spirit –** (Eph. 3:1-5; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)
- ♦ **Words are vehicles of thought** – God has revealed His will through the use of words.
- ♦ **This passage affirms the verbal plenary inspiration of scripture –** (2 Tim. 3:16,17; Mat. 22:32)



# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> For "*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ.

# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

## HAVE YOU RECEIVED & OBEYED THE WISDOM & POWER OF GOD?

MARK 16:15-16

(NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

<sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.







# THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

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Prepared January 15,16, 2011

Preached January 16, 2011

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