

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL THINGS
I COR. 2:12-16

Introduction:

- A. Man cannot discover the truths of God by using man's wisdom.
 - 1. They are two different things. 1:25.
 - 2. They cannot be compared.
 - a. "Fish and goats."

- B. God has revealed His deep secrets to man.
 - 1. v6,7,10, chapter 2
 - 2. We know, salvation, church, heaven, hell.

I. GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT WE MAY
KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD. V12

- A. We have received His Spirit.
 - 1. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God."
 - 2. John 3:6.
 - a. Every person born of the Spirit is not spiritually minded.
 - b. v3:1.
 - 3. We can be saved and spiritually immature.

- B. "That we might know the things that are freely given us of God."
 - 1. know = to come into a sphere of knower, to come into a circle of vision.
 - 2. They, by being born of the Spirit, were placed in a position to learn the great gifts God had freely given them, however they were ignorant.

II. PAUL TAUGHT SPIRITUAL TRUTHS. V13

- A. "which things we also speak."

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1. We are teaching you of these grace-gifts.
 2. We are passing on God's revelation.
- B. "Not in words which man's wisdom teacheth."
1. Wisdom not gained from man.
- C. "but which the Holy Ghost teacheth."
1. Our wisdom is Spirit wisdom.
 2. We teach the same as God's Spirit.
- D. "comparing spiritual things with spiritual (things)."
1. compare = to place together and then judge.
 2. Judge scripture by scripture.

III. THE NATURAL MAN WOULD NOT, INDEED COULD NOT, RECEIVE SPIRITUAL THINGS. V14

- A. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."
1. natural = psuchikos - breathing, possessing animal life, swayed by the animal or life nature gives.
 2. "The life nature gives does not accept the things the Spirit of God teaches."
 3. receiveth = dechomai - to take to one's self what is presented, or brought by another, to accept, to embrace hospitality; It implies a subjective reception, showing that a decision of the will has taken place with respect to the object presented, and that the acceptance manifests it.
- B. "For they are foolishness unto him:"
1. "The flesh of man accepts what flesh thinks of man"
- C. "Neither can he know them."
1. Flesh cannot know spirit.
 2. Flesh converses with flesh.

- D. "because they are spiritually discerned."
 - 1. It cannot be flesh to spirit.
 - 2. It cannot be spirit to flesh.
 - 3. It is flesh to flesh and spirit to spirit.

IV. THE SPIRITUAL MAN ACCEPTS SPIRITUAL THINGS.

- A. "but he that is spiritual judgeth all things."
 - 1. spiritual = pneumatikos - belonging to the spirit, or influenced by pneuma or proceeding from it..
 - 2. judgeth = anakrino - discern, to pronounce final judgment, ana = intensive prefix, investigate, to separate or divide up.

- B. "yet he himself is judged of no man."
 - 1. But his own spiritual value no man can see.
 - 2. No man can understand why a man guided by the Word of God, does what he does. •

- C. "for who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him?"
 - 1. mind = nous - the organ of mental perception and apprehension, to organ of conscious life.
 - 2. If we receive spiritual revelation to know God how can we instruct God?
 - a. instruct = to unite or knit together; then, to put together in reasoning, to demonstrate, to prove.

- D. "But we have the mind of Christ."
 - 1. But we have and receive instruction from Christ.
 - 2. Phil. 2:5 "But let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."
 - 3. Paul had the mind of Christ, the Corinthians did not.

