

WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

GOD HAS FREELY GIVEN US A GIFT, ONE THAT SETS US APART FROM THE REST OF HUMANITY.

I. WHAT GOD'S GIFT IS: insight into His eternal plan (vv. 6-8)

- A. God's plan is entirely distinct from any of man's efforts.
- B. God's plan will actually achieve the highest purpose.
- C. God's plan was completely missed by human leaders and their wisdom.
- D. God's plan was destined before the creation for "our glory."

II. HOW GOD'S GIFT CAME TO US: by divine revelation (vv. 9-13)

- A. The natural means of human discovery could never uncover what God's plan is.
- B. God must and HAS taken the initiative to disclose Himself and His plan.
- C. How did God do this? "Through His Spirit."

III. WHO BENEFITS FROM GOD'S GIFT: those who are "spiritual" (vv. 14-16)

Paul contrasts two kinds of people: natural man and the spiritual man.

A. Who is the "natural man"?

Three descriptives:

- 1) He has a prejudiced attitude.
- 2) He has poor judgment.
- 3) He has powerless comprehension.

B. Who is the "spiritual man?"

Three descriptives:

- 1) He discerns spiritual things. (NIV) "makes judgments about all things" or better, he appraises them, discerns spiritual matters and life issues, because the Spirit takes the Word and instructs him.
- 2) He baffles the natural man.

"They try to appraise believers, of course, but they are always wrong. They may accurately evaluate our faults, shortcomings, and our living that is inconsistent with our faith. But they cannot accurately evaluate our faith."
—John MacArthur
- 3) He has the "mind of Christ."

SOME PERSONAL QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- 1) Am I still a "natural" person?
- 2) If not, am I "spiritual" or "mature"?
- 3) What am I doing with the gift God has given me?