

OUTLINE & NOTES FOR 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 ESV

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1) What we speak and why we speak it, 2:1-5.

- 1. We speak the testimony of God apart from human attempts at exaltation and wisdom so that what we believe and trust in rests in the wisdom and power of God.
- 2. We proclaim the testimony of God with plain speech and without our wisdom 2:1-2.
- 3. We proclaim the testimony of God with plain speech and without our wisdom regardless of our current physical, emotional and spiritual condition, 2:3.
- 4. Regardless: without paying attention to the present situation; despite the prevailing circumstances; not dependent upon current circumstances.
- 5. We proclaim the testimony of God with plain speech and without plausible words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 2:4.
- 6. We proclaim the testimony of God with plain speech and without plausible words of wisdom but in demonstration of

the Spirit and of power so that the faith of those to whom we are speaking does not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God, 2:5.

7. Plausible: seeming credible, reasonable, believable, likely, feasible, tenable, possible, conceivable, imaginable, presumable, logical, likely.

6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

2) Where we get what we speak, 2:6-11.

- 1. We speak the hidden wisdom of God that directs out hearts to glory and is known only by the revealing work of the Holy Spirit to the spiritually mature.
- 2. We speak the plain words of the testimony of God that is the wisdom of God to the mature, 2:6a, 1 Corinthians

1:22-24.

- 3. The wisdom we speak to the mature is not in accord with the times and the powers of this age, 2:6b.
 - 4. We speak the hidden wisdom of God which he decreed from eternity past that lifts our minds and hearts to our eternal glory, 2:7.
 - 5. The Lord of glory was beyond the comprehension of the rulers of this age, so they crucified him, 2:8.
 - 6. The glory that God directs our hearts to and the glory that our Lord represents are incomprehensible and unimaginable to the human mind and heart apart from the revealing work of the Spirit, 2:10-11.
- 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

3) How we receive what we speak, 2:12-16.

- 1. We only know anything by receiving the things of God from the Spirit of God. The spiritual person understands that we only know the things freely given to us by God as they are taught to us by the Spirit.
- 2. A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN OR HELL: The spirit of this world teaches the way of

this world. The Spirit of God teaches the way of God.

- 3. Those who have received the spirit of this world try to understand God from their humanity and from the world’s darkness, 2:12a.
- 4. We (those who have believed the testimony of God) have received the Spirit who is from God so that we can understand the things freely given to us by God, 2:12b.
- 5. We teach these things not in words of human wisdom, but as we are taught by the Spirit through spiritual principles to spiritual people, 2:13.
- 6. The natural person does not accept these things because they are foolishness to him, 2:14a.
- 7. Because the natural person does not accept the spiritual realm, he is not able to understand spiritual truths, 2:14b.
- 8. ONE WORLD—THE SEEN WORLD: The natural person sees only the transient world—the world that is seen, the world that is doomed to pass away.; he cannot see the unseen world, cf. 2 Corinthians 4:18.
- 9. BOTH WORLDS—THE SEEN AND UNSEEN WORLDS: The spiritual person (the person who has believed the plain testimony about God) is able to appraise and make judgments about all things, 2:15a.
- 10. Because the spiritual person has an ability to evaluate his world through God’s wisdom, then he does not allow himself to be unjustly evaluated by non-Christians or by Christians employing worldly standards, 2:15b.
- 11. The spiritual person fully trusts the instructions he receives from the Lord and in receiving the Lord’s instruction has the mind of Christ, 2:16.