

4. 1 Corinthians: the Path to Wisdom

'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2.16

...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5.16

_____ makes all the difference in the world! The one actor is motivated by love of self, the other is motivated by love of God. Life in Christ is about the heart! What is motivating me? Why do I do what I do? To honor God, or myself?

The heart is _____ above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? Does it really matter, all this talk about the state of our hearts? Before we dismiss Jeremiah's observation, take a look at the world around us. How do you explain what is happening in Ukraine, Myanmar, the Balkans, Venezuela, the Middle East.... Is this what rational people do? Yes, by virtue of the wisdom of the world, this is what rational people do. We all rationalize our evil behavior and call it good! If we could really see the evil we are doing, most of us wouldn't do it!

All have sinned.... These three words strike a fatal blow to the "_____ and them" mentality. I need to stop pointing my finger at the Putin's of this world and turn it back to myself, for *All have sinned...*, and that includes me. I have found myself, more often than not, building my empire, seeking my ambitions, satisfying my desires.

All the things I say I do for Christ will prove to be _____ if the motivation of my heart is not right! People may still benefit by my actions, but ultimately, my actions will have no impact on proclaiming the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Rising from the ashes of his seeming failure he _____ to know nothing among [the Corinthians] except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. To know nothing but Christ, and Him crucified is a decision we make! It just doesn't happen! Paul's decision to know only Christ arose from reflecting on his life experience.

Here's the secret of learning, the Holy Spirit and God's Word combined with _____ on our experience!

*...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give _____ to your Father in heaven.*** That takes wisdom! Every choice we make falls on the side of the wisdom of this world or the wisdom of God! Believers and unbelievers alike can "hit or miss" when it comes to the wisdom of God! But we don't have to "hit or miss"; there is a sure path to the wisdom of God, Jesus Christ, Himself.

Come to Christ's Table, partake of this Bread and Cup; and as we do this let us _____ our hearts to the wisdom and power of God fully revealed in Jesus Christ!