

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

We have seen so far that the Corinthian church is a very gifted church. They had been enriched in every way with all kinds of speech and knowledge, 1:5. This was all of grace, for there was nothing very special about most of them, 1:26. Perhaps it was because of that that they were drawn to the values of the world around them – the Greeks with their emphasis on eloquence and wisdom, and the Jews with their desire for powerful signs (1:22). They felt weak, perhaps, and the gospel message they had been given seemed weak. So the Corinthians seemed to be drawing on the world's values in thinking and speaking about the things God had given them – leaders, knowledge, spiritual gifts. This had potentially very serious consequences: first they were in danger of drifting away from the real power and wisdom of the gospel, and second, they were becoming puffed up (see 4:6, 4:18, 8:1, for example).

Paul's fervent desire, 2:5, is that these Corinthian believers don't trust in human wisdom, but instead in God's power. So in today's section he explains why.

Don't trust in human wisdom v6-10a

Why might human wisdom look attractive?

Why and how does it fail?

Why might the gospel look weak?

Why is it worth trusting?

Know that every believer has received the Spirit's power v10b-16

How does someone gain understanding of God?

What is the place of human wisdom in this?

What confidence can every believer therefore take from this?

Thinking it through

Can you think of ways in which Christians can feel intimidated by the wisdom or power of the world?

How might grasping the truths in this section affect someone who doesn't feel wise or important?

How might it challenge a believer who is considered by the world to be wise or important?

How might really grasping these things affect how we

A) relate to each other at Highfields?

B) witness in the world?