

The Holy Spirit Reveals God's Hidden Wisdom

I Corinthians 2:6-16, May 23, 2010

Pentecost Sunday

Beloved of the Lord...The Bible says "Quench not the Holy Spirit", namely we are not to extinguish the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart or drive Him away by giving ourselves over to the deeds of darkness, nor should we despise the hearing of His Word or the receiving of His Gospel Sacraments in church. The Word of God then, especially His Gospel Word is food for our soul, and to despise God's Word is to drive the Holy Spirit from our own heart, for the Spirit works through the Word and not apart from the Word. Since today is Pentecost, that day in which the Holy Ghost filled His twelve disciples with extra gifts above and beyond faith, but remember throughout our life the Holy Spirit earnestly works through the Word to preserve and keep us in the True Faith unto life everlasting. God's Spirit reveals to us the hidden wisdom of God, that Christ came to deliver us from hell and given us heaven, by His body, by His blood, which is given by His Word. Today then let us cherish and hold deeply in our heart the greatest treasure the Holy Spirit has given us by the Word, the forgiveness of sins, even life everlasting, so that "I'm but a Stranger here, heaven is my home."

I. "The wisdom of God in a mystery" Today's text teaches us there is the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God. When you come to church on Sunday to hear God's Word, read your Bible at home, etc., God through the Word preaches to you heavenly wisdom. But at all other times, one way or another, the devil does his preaching to. The devil preaches to you through ungodly friends, TV, radio, internet, etc. While there is nothing sinful about radio, TV, internet, etc., it is the content, the word even to songs we must guard against. It is not "harmless" when in some rock music we learn to rebel against our parents, indulge in the flesh, or laugh at death. Likewise what we see with our eyes on TV or the internet is not always harmless, but depending on the content if it appeals to our baser appetites, these things war against our soul. Therefore dear Christian, do not let the wisdom of this world seduce you away from Christ your Savior. Abhor that which is evil, cling to that which is good, for the sake of your eternal soul.

That which is good for your soul, is the Word of God. "We speak wisdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wisdom of this world." This wisdom of God is the Gospel message from God, that "God was in Christ, reconciling the whole world unto Himself." Only believers know and trust this Gospel truth. Believers alone know, trust, and believe that God through Christ justifies and declares them righteous, even perfect, for "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son

cleanses us from all sin." This wisdom of God however is a complete mystery to all your unbelieving friends who lie in the darkness of sin. They can hear the Gospel as well as the deaf can hear music. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto Him, neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned."

The wisdom of this world then is always at odds with God's wisdom, as different as the night from the day. The Gospel does not agree with human reason and it can only be accepted by faith. While the wisdom of this world, its philosophies, false religions, and false gods come to nought, "We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." Whereas unbelievers are always seeking after some glorious revelation of God, charismatic experience, dreams, visions, secret codes to the Bible, lost books, etc.,that "wisdom of God in a mystery" is no mystery to us who believe because the Holy Spirit has revealed it to us. While the Holy Spirit earnestly works through the Word to save all, only believers have the comfort and light of Christ in their heart. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" 2 Cor. 4 That you dear believer believe in Christ, love Him and trust Him to be your Savior from all sin: such a faith reveals the Way of Salvation is indeed no mystery to you at all. You know and believe what Jesus said. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." This is to our glory, for we too shall be glorified when we enter into heaven. But all this makes no sense to the uncovered. Like Pilate each unbeliever mumbles, "What is truth?" "None of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

II. The Holy Spirit reveals God's wisdom. We know this "wisdom of God in a mystery" because the Holy Ghost has revealed to us Christ, who came forth from the heart of God. "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Like those disciples who received a special outpouring of the Holy Ghost on Pentecost, the tongues of fire upon their head signifying the gifts of the Spirit within, the Holy Spirit has come to us and called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctified and kept us in the one true faith. Even if our flame of faith is weak, we have God's promise, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench." As long as we regularly hear God's Word in church and receive the Sacrament of

Holy Communion our faith will be fed that Bread of Life which leads to the eternal life of heaven.

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” This passage speaks of Christ, the Gospel, and heaven, but it comes from Isaiah 64, where the frustrated prophet first cries to God, “Oh that Thou wouldest rend the heavens, that Thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence, As *when* the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, *that* the nations may tremble at Thy presence!” Truly if God opened the heavens as Isaiah prayed so all sinners could see the infinite God whose holy wrath burns against all who break His commandments, all unbelieving men and women would tremble and quake in the deepest terror of sins. No one would be an unbeliever any more, but such would believe and know God as the devil believes and knows God. Nevertheless such “believers” if we can call them that, would still perish in hell with the devil, for only those who love God enter into heaven.

But here now perhaps we ourselves tremble? Do I love God? Will I enter heaven? But these questions can only be answered with another question: Do you believe Jesus is the True God, the Son of God who came to save you from your sins? Here faith answers, “Yes I believe because God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” We know why Jesus Christ came to this world! The Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity took on human flesh, so He could lay down His life as a ransom and payment for all. Because of our sins He suffered, died, and was buried, but He rose again the third day and ascended into heaven. There even now He reigns, yet He in mercy sends to us His Comforter, the Holy Spirit. We are not alone. Thus dear believer rejoice today, for just as Jesus sent His disciples His Spirit, so we believe today because God has revealed His Gospel love to us “by His Spirit.”

Thus when we speak of God’s first love for us through Christ and our returning love for Him, there is an infinite and finite love. Because of our flesh we could say our love is finite for we do not love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, yet through faith when we speak of the new man we do indeed love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, BECAUSE His love for us, we know well, is infinite. Who can measure that which cannot be measured? Go ahead dear believer, and try for a moment to comprehend the height or depth of God’s love for you and all sinners Christ died for. Who can measure the depths of hell He endured for our sins? Who can measure the heights to which He was exalted having redeemed all men from sin? Who but Him could suffer infinite sorrow, that we might enjoy infinite joy?

Who can measure the east from the west, the north from the south? Thus we are persuaded “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

III. The spirit of discernment. From such a heavenly wisdom revealed to us by His heavenly Spirit, there proceeds heavenly judgment, spiritual discernment. “We have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” We compare spiritual things with spiritual. We by faith now exercise spiritual discernment.

What does this mean? Spiritual discernment or judgment, means we measure our own words and deeds, and the words and deeds of others with God’s Word. We know the Ten Commandments. Is this a sin or not? If God forbids it we will not do it, if it is free, we are free. If our neighbor has sinned and they are ignorant, we judge the matter by God’s Word, for “he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” It is not wrong to say to our neighbor, as Nathan said to David, “Thou art the man.” When we exercise spiritual discernment we also must keep in mind, we ourselves are “judged of no man.” While we should always be sure to confess our sin if we have indeed sinned, not everything is a sin. Don’t let other people falsely teach you something contrary to God’s Word so that you believe something is a sin when it isn’t. We are judged by no man, but God in heaven. Hence defend your Christian liberty and don’t give it up, for the Gospel is at stake. Also do not let your flesh talk you into doing something which is sinful. God draws the line with His Word, and don’t let your flesh blur the line so it can do wants to do it.

Finally, “who hath know the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.” While God’s ways are indeed higher than our own, and no man can begin to know even the smallest fraction of God’s wisdom, God’s own Spirit, the Holy Spirit has revealed to us the holiness of His Son, the “Lord our Righteousness” righteous as a Man for our sake. We know by faith in Christ and through Christ: I’m but a stranger here, heaven is my home. Daily then exercise the mind of Christ, and do all things to His glory for “as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” Amen.