

# Blueprint for the Church:

## *Live the Gospel!*

Small Group Study Guide

### 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-9 The Wisdom of God

It is important to keep the context when doing line by line study. Paul is still addressing the issue of the divisions that had developed in the church over particular personalities of ministry/preaching styles of leaders in the church. To correct this, making it clear that part of the **Blueprint for the Church** is unity and harmony, he is focusing on the one thing that ought to bring us all together and to ensure unity and harmony in the church. That one thing is the adherence to the wisdom of God.

1. The wisdom of God is synonymous with the power of God that Paul spoke about in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Therefore, what is the wisdom of God? What, specifically does this message, that reveals the wisdom of God, focus upon? Support your answer from the text.
2. The word “mystery” which Paul used, means something that is held in secret. It is something that is outside the ability to apprehend unless assisted by one who knows. The term was often used in reference to the “initiation rites” associated with particular secret religious groups throughout the Greek world of the time. Paul takes this word and uses it in a new and fresh way. Based on this understanding of the word “mystery”, in what way is the wisdom of God a mystery?
3. The word “hidden” which Paul used, means that which is concealed or kept in secret. Based on this understanding, in what way was the wisdom of God hidden since before the ages? Is the wisdom of God something that is still hidden? Explain your answer.
4. What does Paul mean when he says that the wisdom of God was predestined and determined before the ages?

Don't Forget:

*Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week*

5. It is important that to remember that Paul says that he is speaking wisdom “among those who are mature.” The word “mature” can mean complete, perfect, or one that is initiated into a group and has full membership in that group.<sup>1</sup> Based on the above definition, of the three choices below, who are the “mature” Paul is speaking about? Explain your answer.

- Senior Saints - those who have followed Christ for many years
- Super Saints - those who follow Christ, having a greater understanding of the teachings and doctrines of Scripture
- Saved Saints - all who have come to saving faith, trusting in the sacrificial death of Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life; regardless how long they have believed or how much understanding they have of the deep truths of Scripture.

6. What is it that Paul is referring to when he speaks of “all that God has prepared”? Is he speaking about the wonders of heaven or the wonders of the Gospel? Keep in mind the context. In particular, what does verse 8 say that would help you determine the answer?

7. How does the wisdom of God, which is “to our glory”, nurture the following:

- Thankfulness and praise to God:
- Hope and encouragement in daily living:
- Devotion and commitment in obedience:

### **BIBLE MEMORY:**

*But we speak God's  
wisdom in a mystery,  
the hidden wisdom  
which God predestined  
before the ages  
to our glory.*

*1 Corinthians 2:7*

8. There is a key to unlocking and understanding the mystery, the hidden wisdom of God. That will be the focus on next week's study. Notice this though, for those who do come to receive and understand the wisdom of God, what is the response (v. 9)? In what ways does your life reflect this appropriate response in light of your understanding of the wisdom of God?