



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 5: Spiritual Discernment

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Read Romans 8:7-11, 8:26-27. What is something that those who are still dead in their sins, living to please their flesh, cannot do? What do we find that we have dwelling in us if we are truly part of Christ? Jump down to verses 26-27. What benefit do we receive when we have this dwelling in us? How does this help expand our understanding on 1 Corinthians 2:10-13?

Read Proverbs 9:1-18. Take some time and consider the contrast between the way of wisdom and the way of folly. What characteristics do we see in wisdom? What characteristics do we see in folly? What is the end for wisdom? For folly?

Read James 3:13-18. How does James say that true wisdom is shown? What does he say is wisdom that is false? How does he describe wisdom that is from above? What is the result of this wisdom?

Read 1 John 2:3-6. What does John say is evidence of being a true believer? (Read the whole book of 1 John if you have extra time today. The whole book is full of positive statements of what a believer will look like, and negative statements of what a believer will NOT look like.)

What encouragement and, perhaps, challenge do we see given in this evidence for us to examine ourselves with?

Knowing that, as 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 shows, the natural man is unable to accept the things of the Spirit of God, read Galatians 5:19-24. The acts of the flesh are obvious...and so are the actions of a Spirit filled believer. What do we see are natural (not forced) characteristics of those who are believers and are being sanctified?

As you spend time with God today, consider the truths we saw in 1 Corinthians today. Knowing that, truly, believers have a different Spirit living in them, how might this impact your day to day interactions, both with those who are saved and those who are not saved? Ask God to help you to see where you might be relying on the wisdom of the world, or the natural mind, instead of looking to Scripture as your guide, and ask Him to help you to repent of those things, and let them go. Acknowledge that it is difficult to let go of the things the flesh

wants and there may be a very personal cost for you, but ask God to help you to let go of those sinful attitudes and to love His Word and value His wisdom above all. Thank Him for giving you the mind of Christ, that you can know where you are sinning and can know how to please God, and ask Him to help you to work with the Spirit that is within you today, and every day.