

October 13, 2020
I Corinthians 2:8-16
Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Paul pointed out four important ministries of the Holy Spirit of God. The Spirit indwells believers (v. 12). The very moment you trusted Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God entered your body and made it His temple (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He baptized you (identified you) into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). He sealed you (Eph. 1:13–14) and will remain with you (John 14:16). He is God's gift to you. *Warren Wiersbe*
2. Since only spiritual people are able to receive spiritual truths, it follows that the man without the Spirit, an unregenerate person, would not and could not receive the message of wisdom regardless of his intellectual abilities or accomplishments (1:20). Like a deaf critic of Bach or a blind critic of Raphael is the unregenerate critic of God's Word. *Lowery, D. K.*
3. Is. 64:4 is cited because it draws attention to the totally unexpected grace God bestows on those who love him. 10a The Isaiah verse is not a reference to what we will discover in the future by way of God's individual purposes for his people, nor to unanticipated gifts, because Paul uses the past tense when he states but God has revealed it to us, the apostles, through the activity of the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Pet. 1:12). *D.A. Carson*
4. Paul is not talking about the wonders of heaven. He is talking about the wisdom God has prepared for believers. His point, a lost man cannot comprehend His wisdom. Man's two greatest human resources, empiricism and rationalism, are useless in discovering divine truth. It is these two resources that led men to crucify Jesus. The doctrine of illumination does not mean we can know and understand everything, we need human teachers. This does not mean that hard work of study is not required. It does mean that Scripture can be understood by every Christian who is diligent and obedient. *John MacArthur*

APPLICATION:

The key elements of this passage are listed in the title of today's message: Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination. From the outset of this Epistle, Paul has been making his case for the work of salvation being only by God. True salvation comes by way of revelation from God to the person. The tool He uses today is His Word. The Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit, God-breathed Truth. In Christ illumination of the Scriptures is a reality as He, the Holy Spirit of God, Who indwells us at the moment of conversion, helps us to understand the very Scriptures that the unregenerate of this world call foolish. Through this we have the mind of Christ, this does not mean equal with Him in understanding in this life, yet, with genuine understanding of the truths of the Bible.