



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“Got Wisdom?”

Tuesday, 21 January 2014

RON J. BIGALKE, PASTOR/MISSIONARY, CAPITOL COMMISSION GEORGIA, 912.659.4212

Ron J. Bigalke, PhD / PO Box 244, Rincon, GA 31326-0244 / www.capitolcom.org / ron.bigalke@capitolcom.org

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

152nd General Assembly

- TUESDAY, 1/21 @ 7:30 AM in 123 CAP
- TUESDAY, 1/21 @ 12 NOON in 328 CLOB

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am and again at 12 Noon. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2014 General Assembly is the book of First Corinthians.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. The sole motivation of Capitol Commission is to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and biblical counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God as an aspect of that ministry.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study

is

Tuesday, 21 January 2014

First Corinthians 2 – “Got Wisdom?”

Wisdom teeth are normally the last teeth to develop. The teeth are located at the extreme end of the jaws, and typically appear between the ages of 17 and 25 when persons have reached a time of life that are regarded as years of discretion. When an eruption of the third molars (“wisdom teeth”) occurs, it often coincides with a young adult’s first genuine work experience, thus the association between the two rites of passage is most likely inevitable. If a person says or does something foolish, the remark is that they have not yet “cut their wisdom teeth,” or reached the years of discretion. The philosophy for the phrase is that “to cut your teeth” on something means to have gained one’s first significant experience.

In addition to the revelation of First Corinthians 2, the Word of God has much to say regarding wisdom. Proverbs 1:5 reads, “A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.” A wise person listens to instruction, especially the Word of God.

Mark 4:24 – And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.”

Luke 8:18 – “So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.”

However, mere knowledge of Scripture is not all that is necessary. One can pursue knowledge with the wrong motivations, and thus one’s pursuit will be vain.

Ecclesiastes 12:12 – But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.

One can memorize knowledge easily. Wisdom, however, considers that knowledge and how to use it rightly.

WISDOM IS FOR THE MATURE

(I Cor 2:1-5) First Corinthians 2 teaches us that relying upon worldly wisdom will never establish an enduring foundation for our lives. When things go wrong in our lives, we begin to sustain ourselves with human wisdom. Some of us may even seek our own ways by depending upon our intelligence and skills of persuasion rather than the grace and glory of Christ. Others of us may submit ourselves indiscreetly to capable and gifted leaders who lead us in ways that please and serve them.

First Corinthians 2 makes it evident that depending upon human ingenuity and wisdom is like building upon an unstable foundation that will eventually result in tremendous loss (cf. 1 Cor 3:10-15). The instruction for those who are members of the body of Christ is to rely solely upon the wisdom of God as revealed in Scripture. Indeed, the Apostle Paul asserted that his reliance was upon the Holy Spirit, not “superiority of speech or of wisdom” (2:1-2).

Paul explained how he avoided human sophistication and wisdom, having determined to “know nothing . . . except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (2:3). Deciding to make Jesus Christ the priority of his message while at Corinth meant not becoming involved in the practices of sophistry so prevalent throughout the cities of Greece. Certainly, when proclaiming the salvation message of grace through faith in Jesus Christ, there is simplicity to that proclamation.

The gospel proclamation is the most important message that believers make known, and that witness is opposed to the human arrogance of both Jews and Gentiles. However, it is nonetheless the power of God for salvation. As opposed to employing human persuasion, the life of the believer is to be “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (2:4).

Much of the present political discussion among those who confess faith in Jesus Christ is concerning immorality, especially, people rejecting the revealed plan of God. Many evangelical pastors are asserting that the present distress in our country is that political leaders, in particular, are promoting unbiblical practices and this is going to lead our country to judgment.

The fundamental problem is the rejection of God as evident in

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (21 January) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 123 CAP

Tuesday (21 January) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 328 CLOB

lunch provided from sponsorship by State Senator Buddy Carter



Enhancing Trust

Capitol Commission Georgia

Got Wisdom?

worldly wisdom. The problem is the heart. The problem is not people promoting immorality, which is just a manifestation of the problem. The problem is the rejection of God. *What is the answer?* The remedy is the righteousness of God, which one receives when he or she has faith (trust) in Christ's saving work upon the cross.

THEREFORE, "REACHING THE CAPITOL COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST" MEANS WITNESSING HEARTS TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL. . . THE BIBLE REASSURES US THAT OUR LIVES AND OUR NATION WILL BE BETTER IF LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND LIVE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

God's people will truly impact society for the better as they give priority to their own spiritual maturity, which means living in a manner that honors God's commands and glorifies His name. Therefore, "reaching the Capitol community for Christ" means witnessing hearts transformed by the gospel. While exhorting us to evangelize and disciple kings and all who are in authority, the Bible reassures us that our lives and our nation will be better if leaders are those who believe *and* live the gospel message. Generally, those who are believers are more discerning, wise, reverent, and overall better role models for a country.

When we see ourselves as weak, it is then that we can demonstrate the power and wisdom of God (2:3-4). Greek culture tended to be dependent upon the worldly wisdom of its rhetoricians and philosophers. Either at the Capitol or at some other locale, believers can express this cultural standard by exerting themselves through human wisdom. Therefore, in human weakness and reliance upon the Holy Spirit, believers demonstrate that a life that matters is based upon faith in all our conduct of life and mode of living.

Throughout the Old Testament, wisdom often incorporated notions of practicality and prudence with regard to mastering life and issues that arise within it. Wisdom could also denote learned skill and ethical behavior. In both Greek and Hebrew thought, wisdom could signify either intellectual content or perspective, in addition to one's conduct and mode of living. Wisdom is personified in the book of Proverbs (1:20-33; 8:1-16), and is attributed as having a function in the creation of the cosmos (3:19). The proverbial usage gives precedent to the assertion within Corinthians that Christ is the wisdom of God. First Corinthians consistently refers to "wisdom" as genuine insight and understanding, and even has nuances of the Old Testament usage (1:21, 25), especially in regard to power (1:24; 2:5) and Christ (1:24, 30).

WISDOM IS FOR THE SPIRITUAL

(*1 Cor 2:6-16*) Why do some welcome "the Spirit" and "the power of God," while others do not? The answer is given in verses 6-16 of 1 Corinthians 2. Scripture is not teaching that we have nothing wise to offer, nor that many are opposed to wisdom; rather, it is that the wisdom of God is drastically different from what the world offers.

God's wisdom is eternal and is made known by the Holy Spirit, and that wisdom today is found in the Scriptures (1 Cor 2:6-7).

Just as there are two types of wisdom, there are also two types of people: the natural person and the spiritual individual. God's secret wisdom is not some magical kind of knowledge. Some things that the unbeliever does not understand is quite evident to the believer. Powerful people in this world can know nothing of God's wisdom, and their ignorance leads them to reject the things of the Spirit (2:8-10).

God's truth is welcomed by those whom the Spirit enlightens (2:10-11). The means by which God provides the knowledge of his thoughts is by the Holy Spirit, who is the only one who completely understands the mind of God. The thoughts of God would be impossible to know without the working of the Holy Spirit for it was his task to supervise the writing of the Scriptures. The Bible is a record of the thoughts of God, and those who study it are able to know all the things that God has "freely given" (2:12).

"Spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*" is vastly different from that favored by "natural" persons who neither welcome biblical teachings nor are able to understand them (2:13-14). The natural person is without the Spirit, and thus lives as though there was nothing beyond the physical world (2:14). With values that are material, the natural person judges matters based upon material and physical perspectives. The natural person does not, and cannot, understand or value spiritual things.

SOMEONE WHO HAS "THE MIND OF CHRIST" IS ABLE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS CONCERNING LIFE.

The spiritual (mature) person is controlled by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:6-8), and thus enjoys the special privilege of being able to appraise all things, which means they can examine all things carefully and distinguish what is important. Someone who has "the mind of Christ" is able to make the right decisions concerning life. The wisdom needed *today* for life decisions is available through God's revelation (the Bible).

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact us by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state directors are pastors/missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community. State directors also meet personally with many government leaders to proclaim God's grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel. The mission of Capitol Commission is to reach Capitol communities for Christ—one person at a time, to disciple them, and to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry, wherever God chooses to place them.

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it. Please join us in this ministry!

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:
State Senator – Buddy Carter
Georgia Senate District 1

Bible study copies made by:



**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:
TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY @ 7:30AM in 122 CAP
and again @ 12 NOON in 328 CLOB**