

I Corinthians 7 – The Power of God

I Cor. 1:21

For all of our education and technology, from the quantum physics of the universe to the tiniest details of microbiology—we know so much but it's almost the same as knowing nothing because it does nothing for us.

1. All our knowledge has not resulted in us knowing God—the most obvious thing there is.
2. All our knowledge has not done anything for us—we still live and pass away into an unknown eternity.

--All our knowledge has never given us any ability to change ourselves or our destiny.

--Where in all of our knowledge have we found the fix for our hatred, treachery, debauchery, murders or wars?

Observing the human race is like watching a movie we've seen before; we see where this is headed; we hear the music change; the bad guy is coming; they are doing things they shouldn't be doing—it's all so predictable—we yell at the screen but it does no good.

--We re-watch the movie even though we know how it ends and the smartest among us claim that we can change the ending but nothing ever changes.

--All our knowing doesn't change one thing.

Ecclesiastes is a book about the futility of human wisdom and the wisest man who ever lived: Solomon.

--He dedicated himself to knowing all there is to know: **Ecc. 1:13;17**

--He gained all this knowledge and worldly wisdom and then rightly concluded: what's the use of knowing all of this?

He ran after the things the world wants but, unlike everybody else, Solomon had no limits

--He built whatever he wanted; made whatever he wanted; went wherever; married whoever he wanted (had 700 wives and 300 concubines!). Whatever he did was way over the top.

--He acquired riches and land, livestock and servants.

Ecc. 2:3 – He gets plastered but there is no escaping the futility of it all.

Ecc. 2:8 – He tried all the stuff that people use to anesthetize themselves against the harsh reality that human existence is futile.

--Times have changed but people and their remedies haven't!

--People can't live with their own thoughts so they drown them in chemicals and music.

Ecc. 2:13 – Better to be smart than dumb.

Ecc. 2:14 – Whether smart or dumb, it doesn't change us or what happens to us.

You can be anything, acquire it all, but it all is vanity—it all gets washed away. **Matthew 7:26-27**

What man couldn't do for himself with all of his doing and achieving and learning, God did through a simple message: **I Cor. 1:21**

--If we will just believe what God has said about us, our sin, and His Son, something happens to us that none of our own wisdom could fix.

--Notice: it doesn't say “for all who can figure it out” or “for all who are smart” or “all who can clean their lives up.” –isn't that great?

That simple truth is the bone caught in the throat of the religious and intellectual world

I Cor. 1:22-23

– The Jews represented the religious world and like the rest of the world's religions they complicated everything.

--They had everyone jumping through all these religious hoops and all these rules and regulations—never for sure if you've done enough or if you have been enough.

-Like all other man-made religions with all their rules, and that keep moving the goal post every time we turn around.

They are offended by the simplicity of the fact that God is giving Heaven away to whoever will believe in His Son!

--They thought their Messiah wouldn't die—they were wrong about that.

--Since they had no room for Jesus' death in their thinking, they had no room for His resurrection either—they were wrong about that.

-His death on a cross doesn't prove anything other than He was a man, but His resurrection speaks of something altogether different!

--They thought He wouldn't be humble and lowly (unlike them) – they were wrong about that.

--They thought He wasn't God—they were wrong about that.

--They thought they were good enough to go to heaven by themselves

--**Wrong again!**

The Greeks represented all that wasn't religious: science, math, logic, higher learning of all branches.

--They were amazed at what they could figure out if they applied their minds.

--They loved to sit around and talk about it **Acts 17:21**

--It's no different today with all of our science and learning—we love to talk about it, but it doesn't change anything about us or our destiny.

--Like Solomon concluded: you die smart or you die dumb; what's the real difference? You die with the most toys or with none of them, what's the difference?

The only thing that makes a difference is Jesus!

--**1 Cor. 1:23-24**