

## I Corinthians – part 10

### I Corinthians 2:1-12

A man got a free ticket from his company to go to the Superbowl. Very excited but when he got there the ticket was for a seat that in the last row in the stadium. He was closer to the goodyear blimp than he was to the game. So, he started looking around and spotted an empty seat across the stadium that had no one in it and it was in a great spot near the 50 yard line down low. He watched it for a while and no one sat in it so he thought he would take a chance and walk over there. Avoiding the guards at certain spots, he made it to the empty seat and asked the man next to it if anyone was sitting there. The man said that no one was! He said, "This is amazing. Who in their right mind would miss the Superbowl with such a nice seat!?" The man replied, "That's actually my wife's seat but she passed away. We never missed a Superbowl all these years, so, here I am." The man was super apologetic and asked that surely someone else from the family or a friend would have wanted the seat. "No one's coming from my family or friends because they are all at my wife's funeral right now."

What is the most important thing happening right now?

--What God is saying to us and what God is doing around us—Not the war or the ceasefire or whatever is being held out as *the thing* we should be focused on.

--A small group of people headed by the Apostle Paul were going from place to place explaining and applying God's word to whoever would listen, and that process was set to change the landscape of the entire western civilization.

--Zeus and Apollo and Aphrodite had ruled the lives of the Roman world for centuries as did the Caesars and their dreaded armies, but God's word and God's Spirit was going to change all of that.

--Do you know anyone cares much or even knows much about those ancient names?

--Can you fill a 3-minute conversation with information about what any one of the Caesars accomplished?

--On the other hand, do you know anyone who has been changed through the simple message that Paul and proteges shared?

What is the most important thing happening right now? The same as it was back then!

### Corinthians 2:1-5

V. 6 – Who are these mature ones? Those who listen and believe and have grown in the Scriptures and continue to grow.

--They are also the ones who believed yesterday and the littlest and newest among us.

--Think about it: when a child like the ones who were recently baptized or professed their faith in Jesus—when they believed in Jesus, what has been settled for them? All that truly matters!

--One day they'll better understand their decision, but does that truly matter; will their increased understanding change their standing with God?

--One day they'll have a better grasp of grace, mercy, repentance, love of God, foreknowledge, predestination, eschatology, and all the riches of what it means to know God, but will it change their standing with God?

--99% of what matters was settled at the point of their faith.

The thief on the cross had a better understanding of the entire message of the Bible than did all the Pharisees gathered at the foot of Jesus' cross who had studied the Bible their entire lives.

--He was mature in his understanding compared to them!

Back to our word in V. 6: "Mature" means anyone in whom the Spirit of God dwells through faith in Jesus Christ—these are automatically tremendously wiser than anyone who doesn't have Jesus.

V. 6b – Who are these rulers? Those were the current news makers and policy formers who seemed to matter then but mattered for little or nothing as it turns out.

--The same as it was then, so it is now—these that are the supposed power brokers and news makers don't matter and are passing away.

**V. 7** – Hidden from who? Every person who will not humble themselves and recognize that they will answer to God—acknowledge that God is their creator and that He alone makes the rules.

--Remember **Romans 1:21** – the refusal to acknowledge God is where the wheels came off the bus.

--This wisdom is hidden because as soon as they refuse to see, the judgment is blindness.

--Try to explain color to person born blind.

--It will not matter how close they get them to a painting they will not be able to see it.

--This is why people can't get Jesus or the Bible. “[Didn't you feel it? Can't you see your need for Jesus?](#)” No, they can't.

**V.8** – None of them saw it coming. Not Judas, not even Peter – apart from God's Holy Spirit, no one can see what God has hidden.

--Judas and Peter were illiterate compared to the Pharisees with regard to their knowledge of the Scriptures.

Never forget that all their knowledge of the Bible and all their Scripture memory did not open their eyes!

--So, why do we read and memorize the Bible? Our purpose is not to know stuff. Our purpose is to know God.

--I have seen advertisements especially after the Charly Kirk assassination about learning the Bible—crash courses and one even said that you would know the Bible better than your pastor at the end of one year.

--On the one hand I pray that you all will know the Bible better than me by tomorrow, but on the other, why settle for knowing it as well as me?

Why not know it as well as the Pharisees? They spent far more time in the Bible with the original languages than I ever have.

--[“Who wants to be like the Pharisees?”](#) Exactly.

This, again, begs the question: why do we read and memorize Scripture? Just to know stuff?

--The Pharisees knew all there was to know about the Bible. They were smarter than your pastor...they were smarter than Jesus...?

--Actually, they were dumber than a criminal dying for his misdeeds on a cross next to Jesus.

--For one simple reason, the Pharisees thought they had the capacity to figure it out—*blind men convinced that they could see color.*

--The man on the cross knew he was blind and came to the only One who could open his eyes.

The Bible is the message system of the unsearchable God; it is closed to all who think that their ability, education or experience opens this book for them.

--But to those whose heart is to turn to the real God and know the real God, God Himself will open this book for them.

**VV. 9-12**