

February 16, 2020

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

“I am *homo sapiens*, and I am an accident. How I got here, where I’m going, I don’t know. Now that I’m here, I’m not sure why or what my purpose is. Kind of depressing, isn’t it? My evolutionary instincts tell me I’ll feel better if I make something of myself. Some days my instincts tell me to make something of myself by helping other people. Other days my instincts tell me to make something of myself by stepping on other people. Most days my instincts tell me to make something of myself by playing video games. I think it goes without saying: I can be a real mess. And what do we say? “It is what it is.”

Anyone want to join me on that ride? I didn’t think so. How do you feel about this one? “I’m god; you’re god; we’re all part of the same, great cosmic god.” That feels better, doesn’t it? But some days, what feels more true? - “God is dead.”

Sounds like I had a rough week, doesn’t it? Let’s start over. “You can be, you can do whatever you set your mind to.” “Be true to yourself.” “Just do it.” And what do we all say? “Whatever.”

Welcome to the wisdom of the world. We gorge ourselves on that puke; we buy it and bring it into our houses. We pay for it with our tax dollars. With the tv we watch, the web-pages we read, the music we listen to, the schools we pay for with our tax dollars, we brainwash ourselves and we brainwash the people around us. Every day we’re fed that poison. We digest it and make it a part of us. We feed it to ourselves and the ones we love. We embrace the world’s lies as truth. And we soak ourselves in that devil’s brew hoping to find life and love, peace and the cure for what ails us. Then we wonder why this world is so screwed up. And to fix things, we blame God for not taking better care of us, and reject God for not telling us what we want to hear.

We hear that and what do we do? Part of us chants: “yea, yea, yea; pastor’s ragging on the world again - whatever.” Part of us nods “that’s so true; [and shakes] that’s so wrong ...” but then we belly up to the bar of world wisdom: “Give me more of the same” and we drink up another week of the same poison and feed our family the same. Or, maybe, as God’s children, we

step away from the wisdom and the ways of the world and what do we find? We find ourselves judged and condemned by the world.

The Spirit of God wants you to know something about the wisdom of this world - "Don't take the world's word for it!" When it comes to tackling touchy topics, "Don't take the world's word for it." The wisdom of this world is coming to an end. It offers nothing and it is coming to nothing. Why? The wisdom of the world is missing the key. The wisdom of the world doesn't know the beginning; the wisdom of the world doesn't know the end. The wisdom of the world doesn't know the plan, and so the wisdom of the world just makes it up as it goes along.

Sometimes the wisdom of the world can sound so smart, so caring. Science can be so amazing, in so many ways such a blessing. And we all know people who could use more tolerating, accepting, and protecting. The wisdom of the world can sound so good. But the wisdom of this world is coming to nothing because the wisdom of this world doesn't know ... it can't comprehend what God has prepared for those who love him. And so the purpose of life, the cure for death; the problem of evil, the power for good; the answers for peace, hope, life, love ... when all is said and done, the wisdom of this world offers nothing because it knows nothing of what God has for us.

That's why I say - when it comes to peace, hope, life, and love - don't take the world's word for it. When it comes to who you are, your place in the world - don't take the world's word for it. When it comes to right and wrong, good and evil - don't take the world's word for it. Why? They don't know - **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."** They don't know what God has for you.

But you do! You do know what God has for you! You heard Jesus: **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. ... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven..."** "Blessed are the poor? Blessed are the meek? Blessed are the persecuted?" That so doesn't make sense. But Jesus knows what he has for you, and so do you. In a bit, we'll hear Jesus

point to his body and blood: **“given and shed for the forgiveness of your sins.”** That so doesn’t make sense, but Jesus knows what he has for you. Not just today, but forever! The Jesus who raised himself from death to life promises: **“I am the resurrection and the life ... whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”** Wow! What we have with Jesus ... what we have coming with Jesus is so amazing.

What we have coming with Jesus can’t be found in the thinking and teaching of the world. It’s only revealed by the Spirit in his Word. In here [Bible], you get to know - You are not an accident of evolution; you are a special creation of God. In here, you get to know, God’s heart and mind for you, his Word for you isn’t “whatever”; God’s heart and mind, God’s Word and Promise for you are “yes, in Christ.” Yes, in Christ’s body and blood, you are forgiven! Yes, in Christ’s life, you are right with God. Yes, in Christ, you have life! Not just some kind of spirit-life spirituality, but life as a dear child of your Father in heaven.

What does that mean for us? This world with all that it has to offer isn’t the best offer we have on the table. This world and this life isn’t the only life we have. This life - no matter how important it feels - is small, small, small compared with the life God has for you with him in heaven.

You know that, because by the Holy Spirit working in this Word, you have the mind of Christ. With the mind of Christ, you know who you are - you are a precious child of God. With the mind of Christ, you know why you are - you are here to represent God with his Truth and love. And with the mind of Christ, you know where you are going and what you have going for you today and forever - you are going with Jesus! That’s why, with the mind of Christ, you don’t settle for the world’s ways and the world’s approval. That’s why, with the mind of Christ, you don’t settle for the world’s idea of what love is. That’s why, with the mind of Christ, you don’t settle for fitting in and following along with the world. Because, with the mind of Christ, you know you have a better life, a better way to live, with Jesus. So - with today’s touchy topics, don’t take the world’s word for it. You have something better. In here [Bible], you have the mind of Christ. Amen.