What the Natural Man Cannot Know

Tony Mauck · 1 Corinthians 2:14

INTRODUCTION

- So the role that God's word plays in our salvation. That's really the idea that we're going to explore in more detail tonight.
- Who do you believe the natural man of 1 Corinthians 2 and verse 14 is?

1 A Wrong Interpretation of 1 Corinthians 2:14

- They do not read this in context. They read it from the standpoint of their theology, and they come up with very dangerous conclusions.
- The problem with that view is it makes God a respecter of persons. Why not flip the switches for everybody?
- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men. Well, why persuade them if God flips all the switches?

2 The Word of the Cross Is Foolishness

1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 2:1–5

- For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.
- And you mean to tell me God is going to save through an instrument of capital punishment. To the minds of many, it was absurd.
- And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power.
- That your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, not mine or any other man, but on the power of God.

3 God's Hidden Wisdom Revealed by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:6–11; 1 Peter 1:12

- The wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood. For if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- What was at one time hidden is now hidden no more.
- Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man. All that God has prepared for those who love him.
- You can't know God's mind unless God tells you. And that's the role of the Holy Spirit.

4 What the Natural Man Cannot Know

1 Corinthians 2:14; James 3:15; Jude 19

- The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. But considers them foolishness, and he cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.
- As long as you refuse to look at the message of the cross through spiritual eyes, or through what the Holy Spirit reveals, you're not gonna get it.
- People who are devoid of the Spirit don't have answers. The natural man without the Holy Spirit doesn't have the answers that he needs.
- If you reject the product of the Holy Spirit, if you reject the Bible, you can't get this.
- That without the Holy Spirit revealing the hidden wisdom of God, we would never know any of this. And we could not know it.

5 The Spiritual Man Has the Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:15–16; Isaiah 40; Philippians 2:5

- This spiritual person is one who has allowed the Holy Spirit to guide and direct him.
- So I don't have to fear any human judgments or any judgments from the natural man because he doesn't know what I know.
- You better not be impressed by the wrong people. By the fellow who says the cross is foolishness.
- Where does it ultimately go? It's the development of the mind of Christ in all of his disciples.

6 Carnal Man, Natural Man, Not the Same Thing

- Carnal man, natural man, not the same thing. That's often a mistake people make in this context.
- For you are still fleshly, for there is jealousy and strife among you. That's not the mind of Christ.
- Don't be influenced by the natural man, the man who cuts himself off from the Spirit of God. Don't fall short of the spiritual man by living carnally.

THE CHALLENGE

What are you living for? The next sensation? The next moment of pleasure. Are you walking daily based on your own wisdom or the Holy Spirit's wisdom?

MY NOTES