

**QUARRELLING AMONG YOU**

\*Paul is still dealing with the **root cause** of their **divisions** (1:10-31)

**CAME TO YOU (1)**

Reference to his visit to Corinth in **Acts 18**: 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey

**WEAKNESS, FEAR, TREMBLING (3)**

\*Paul is declaring that his inadequacy to carry the weight of mankind was on full display...

**SPIRIT & POWER (4)**

Heb 2:4 "God also bore witness by **signs and wonders** and **various miracles** and by **gifts of the Holy Spirit**"

**BEFORE THE AGES (7)**

\*Before the foundations of the world were laid, God had determined that all **who believed on his Son** would be saved.

-Act 2:23; Rom 3:21; 8:29-30; 9; Eph 1:3-14; 2Th 2:13; 1Pe 1:18-21

\***GLORY** -> Rom 8:18-25

**THROUGH THE SPIRIT**

The Convicting Ministry of the Spirit (John 16:8-11)

\***SIN (8, 9)**

No one has ever had a genuine relationship with the Son of God **without first recognizing their own sin** (Mt 5:3).

\***RIGHTEOUSNESS (8, 10)**

Once someone recognizes their need for Christ, they must **know His will** to be in a relationship with Him. In Jesus' absence, the Spirit brings the will of God to those who seek Him.

\***JUDGMENT (8, 11)**

Why is a relationship with Christ important? Only through Him can we **escape judgment** against sin (Heb 2:23; Rom 1:18).

-These convictions are **literally life or death!**

**WORDS OF ELOQUENT WISDOM:** This ties back to Paul's statement in **1Cor 1:17**

<sup>1</sup>**[And]**, when I came to you, brothers, **did not come** proclaiming to you the **testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom**. <sup>2</sup>**[For]** I decided to know **nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified**.

**1:23-24 "WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED" (GAL 2:16)**

<sup>3</sup>And I was with you in **weakness** and in **fear** and much **trembling**, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were **not in plausible words of wisdom**, **but** in **demonstration of the Spirit** and of **power**, <sup>5</sup>**so that** your **faith** might not **rest in the wisdom of men** **but** in the **power of God**.

**THE OPTIONS OF WHERE TO REST OUR LIVES**

<sup>6</sup>**[Yet]** among the mature **we do impart wisdom**, although it is **not a wisdom of this age** or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <- **THE GOSPEL IS WISDOM WHY? -> JUST NOT TO THE WORLD!**

<sup>7</sup>**[But]** we impart a **secret and hidden wisdom of God**, which **God decreed before the ages** for **our glory**. <sup>8</sup>**None** of the rulers of this age **understood this**, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**THE MYSTERY CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY HUMAN WISDOM**

<sup>9</sup>**[But]** as it is written, "**What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him**" — <- Paraphrase of Isa 64:4

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us **through the Spirit**.

**[For]** the **Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God**.

<sup>11</sup>**[For]** who **knows a person's thoughts** except the **spirit of that person**, which is in him? **[So also]** no one **comprehends the thoughts of God** except the **Spirit of God**. <sup>12</sup>**[Now]** we have **received not the spirit of the world**, **but** the **Spirit who is from God**, that we might understand the things **freely given us by God**. <- Acts 2:38; Rom 8:9; Eph 1:13-23; 3:14-19

<sup>13</sup>And **we impart** this in words **not taught by human wisdom** but **taught** by the **Spirit**, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **FOLLY: 1:18, 21, 23, 27**

<sup>14</sup>The **natural person** does **not accept** the things of the **Spirit of God**, for they are **folly** to him, and **he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>15</sup>The **spiritual person judges all things**, but is himself to be **judged by no one**. <- Human judgment or approval is irrelevant

<sup>16</sup>**[For]** who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to **instruct him?**" But we have the mind of Christ.

LXX of Is 40:13 "judges all things" - The Spirit gives us a lens to see into the mind of God concerning all matters

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power

If one is converted by a sales pitch rather than conviction of sin, their conversion is worthless -Acts 2:37; Isa 29:13

**WHY – BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWING MEN INSTEAD OF CHRIST**

**HIDDEN WISDOM**  
Mystery (NASB; KJV, NKJV)  
μυστήριον (*mystērion*)

\*As used in the NT, it does **not** represent an enigma, or a riddle that must be solved.

\*Refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept veiled but is now fully revealed in **Christ through God's Holy Spirit**.

-Ro 16:25; 1Co 4:1; Eph 1:9; 3:3-9; 5:32; 6:19; Col 1:26; 2:2

**THROUGH THE SPIRIT**

The Spirit as a Guide Into All Truth (John 16:13-15)

\*How does The Spirit convict? As a "guide ...into...all truth" (13)!

\*Where does Truth come from? Jesus says of the Spirit, "**He will take what is mine and declare it to you**" (14, 15).

\***Only God's Holy Spirit** can bring us the **Truth of God**. NOT Human Wisdom!

**CONTRASTS**

Paul is continuing to contrast the **two perspectives** he began highlighting in 1:18-31

Wisdom of This Age vs. Hidden Wisdom of God

Spirit of the World vs. Spirit Who is from God

The Natural Person vs. The Spiritual Person

### Quarrelling Among You

#### **1 Corinthians 1:10–31 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### Lofty Speech

#### **Acts 2:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

### Isaiah 29:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said:  
“Because this people draw near with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their **fear of me is a commandment taught by men,**

### Christ Crucified

### Galatians 2:16 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

### Hidden Wisdom

### 1 Corinthians 2:7 (NASB 95)

<sup>7</sup> but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

### 1 Corinthians 2:7 (ASV)

<sup>7</sup> but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, *even* the *wisdom* that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory:

### 1 Corinthians 2:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

### 1 Corinthians 2:7 (KJV 1900)

<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

### Mystery

**3696** μυστήριον (*mystērion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLArām 10661; Str 3466; TDNT 4.802—LN 28.77 **a secret**, a mystery (Mk 4:11; Ro 11:25; 16:25; 1Co 2:1; 4:1; 13:2; 14:2; 15:51; Eph 1:9; 6:19; Col 1:26; 2:2; 2Th 2:7; 1Ti 3:9; Rev 17:5)

Μυτιλήνη (*Mytilēnē*), ἡ (*hē*): n.pr.fem.; ≡ Str 3466—(Ac 28:1 v.r.); see 3639<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

**3466.** μυστήριον *mustērion*; from μύστης *mustēs* (*one initiated*); from 3453; *a mystery or secret doctrine*:—mysteries(5), mystery(22).<sup>2</sup>

**mystery** In Paul's writings, the word *mystērion* refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept secret but is now revealed in Christ. This plan includes the unification of Jews and Gentiles into one new people of God (3:3, 5–6, 9).<sup>3</sup>

**Romans 16:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

**1 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

**Ephesians 1:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

**Ephesians 3:3–9 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

**Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

**Ephesians 6:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). In *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Foundation Publications, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Eph 1:9). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

**Colossians 1:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

**Colossians 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

**Through the Spirit: The Convicting Ministry of the Spirit (John 16:8-11)**

*Jesus is continuing His teaching to the eleven disciples on the last night before His crucifixion. During this evening, He has already promised to send the Holy Spirit after His departure (John 14:15-17, 25-26; 15:26-27). He now revisits this promise and expands on the work that will be completed by the Spirit. The centerpiece of this work will be to "convict the world" (8) concerning **three things**. This morning, let's talk through the reasons why these convictions are necessary and how the Spirit completes this ministry:*

**John 16:7–11 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for **if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you**. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will **convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**Sin (8, 9)**

*Jesus says the Spirit will convict the world "concerning sin, because they do not believe in me" (9). No one has ever had a genuine relationship with the Son of God without first recognizing their own sin ("poor in spirit" → Matthew 5:3). So, without this conviction, man will **never** seek a true relationship with Christ (believe in Him).*

**John 16:8–9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will **convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**: <sup>9</sup> **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;**

**Matthew 5:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Righteousness (8, 10)**

*The second part of the Spirit's ministry is to convict the world "concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer" (10). Once someone recognizes their **need** for Christ because of their sin, then they must **know and follow His***

will to be in **right relationship** with Him. Instruction regarding His will **can no longer come from Christ, because He is with the Father (Acts 2:33; 5:31; Rom 8:34; etc.).** However, **In Jesus' absence, the Spirit now brings the will of God to those who seek Him.**

**John 16:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> **And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**

**John 16:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> **concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;**

**Acts 2:33 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> Being therefore **exalted at the right hand of God**, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

**Acts 5:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> God **exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**Romans 8:34 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—**who is at the right hand of God**, who indeed is interceding for us.

**Judgment (8, 11)**

The final ministry of the Spirit is to convict the world **“concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged”**. Why is it so important for “the world” to have a relationship with Christ? **It is only through Him that we can escape God’s judgment against sin (Heb 2:3)**. God has already revealed His judgment against **“all ungodliness and unrighteousness” (Rom 1:18)**. These convictions are **literally life or death!**

**John 16:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> **And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**

**John 16:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> **concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

**Hebrews 2:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> **how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?** It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

**Romans 1:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**Through the Spirit: The Spirit as a Guide into All Truth (John 16:13-15)**

**John 16:12–15 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

*How does the Spirit complete His convicting ministry? As a “guide...into...all truth” (13)! Where does this **Truth** come from? Jesus says of the Spirit, “He will take what is mine and declare it to you” (14, 15). How do we come to **recognize sin**? By comparing our lives to the perfect **Truth** of God (Rom 5:20; 7:7-12; Gal 3:19-22; Heb 2:2). How do we learn the way to be in a **right relationship** (i.e. **righteousness**) with God? Through His **Truth** (Rom 1:16-17)! How do we learn the way of escape from God’s **judgment** against sin? Through His **Truth**! The Spirit completes His convicting ministry through **TRUTH!***

**Romans 5:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

**Romans 7:7–12 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup> The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup> So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

**Galatians 3:19–22 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. <sup>20</sup> Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

### **Hebrews 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

*How do we receive this **Truth**? Three times during this same evening, Jesus has promised these eleven men that God's Holy Spirit will directly deliver to their remembrance "all that I have said to you" (14:26; 15:26; 16:13). They, along with those who had the spiritual gift of prophecy (1Co 12:4-12; 14), received direct inspiration from the Spirit for the words that we now have in our New Testaments. This is how God's Holy Spirit delivers **TRUTH** to us! Does our daily use of this **TRUTH** show that we are allowing God's Spirit to **convict us** with the message of Christ?*

### **John 14:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

### **John 15:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

### **John 16:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4–12 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**1 Corinthians 14:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.<sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.<sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.<sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.<sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

**Before the Ages**

*Commentary on Eph 1:4-5*

*(v.4) Inherent in this is the fact of God's calling and electing people before the foundation of the world; and very few theological questions have demanded more attention and interest than this. Clearly revealed in this is the fact that the coming of Jesus Christ into the world for the purpose of taking out of it a people for himself and redeeming them unto eternal life was no afterthought on God's part. Before the world was ever created, the divine plan of the Son of God's visitation of the human family existed in the eternal purpose of God. That body that Christ would gather from the populations of earth is destined to receive eternal life; because what God purposes is certain of fulfillment. Such a calling and election of those "in Christ" to receive eternal glory, however, is not capricious. Every man may decide if he will or will not become a part of it and receive the intended blessing.*

*(v.5) Theologians have tried for ages to make something hard out of predestination; but the meaning is not difficult. God designed the whole creation to accomplish the fulfillment of the plan which existed before creation. That is a simple definition of it. It applies to human beings, planets, galaxies, everything God ever made. Regarding people, God's purpose in creating man was that he might become a Son of God through Jesus Christ. That is the destiny God intended for every man ever born on earth. Stars and galaxies may not oppose or thwart their intended destiny; but with people, there is another factor, the freedom of the human will, enabling people to hinder or even prevent the fulfillment of God's purposes in their lives.<sup>4</sup>*

**Acts 2:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

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<sup>4</sup> Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Ephesians". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". "<http://www.studydrive.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=eph&chapter=001>". Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

**Romans 3:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

**Romans 8:29–30 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**Romans 9 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup> and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>8</sup> This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. <sup>9</sup> For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, <sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— <sup>12</sup> she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” <sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” <sup>18</sup> So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” <sup>20</sup> But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” <sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— <sup>24</sup> even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? <sup>25</sup> As indeed

he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’ ” <sup>26</sup> “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ ” <sup>27</sup> And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, <sup>28</sup> for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” <sup>29</sup> And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.” <sup>30</sup> What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; <sup>31</sup> but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, <sup>33</sup> as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

### **Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

### **1 Peter 1:18–21 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

<sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

### **Glory**

#### **Romans 8:18–25 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **It is Written**

#### **Isaiah 64:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.

### **Holy Spirit Received**

#### **Acts 2:38 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Romans 8:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

#### **Ephesians 1:13–23 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my

prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 3:14–19 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Folly**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

**1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

**1 Corinthians 1:27 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

**The Mind of the Lord**

**Isaiah 40:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,  
or what man shows him his counsel?