

The New Testament Church
Power and Wisdom – 1st Corinthians 1:18-24
 Pastor Paul Jehle – January 15, 2023

- I Many truths in God's Word that appear as paradoxes depict the nature of God's ways
- A. The balance of God's power *and* wisdom is such a truth and critically needed today.
 1. Genesis 1:1 and following – God created things with His Word, immediately; yet at the same time, His wisdom gave them properties that revealed His image as well
 2. Genesis 3:15 – *He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*
 - a. The entrance of sin and how the enemy used it would be used by God
 - b. The **power** of God would bruise the head of the serpent – victory
 - c. The **wisdom** of God fulfills the promise through the **cross** – **time** and **surrender**
 - d. The purpose, from the outset, is to re-make men and women into His image
 3. Two seeds come forth – godly line vs. ungodly line (extremes) power and pride
 - a. Abel the line of the spirit – replaced by Seth/Enosh – call on the name of the Lord
 - b. Cain the line of the flesh – pleasure (lust of flesh), power (eyes) and pride (of life)
 4. Genesis 6:8-9 – *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and he was a just man*
 - a. There was a real Ark historically, yet it is also a symbol of a godly remnant
 - b. The re-population of earth allowed the remnant time to mature through surrender
 5. 1st Chr. 22:8 – David a man of war; Solomon of man of wisdom/peace
 - a. David was a man of war – *power* – could not build God's house
 - b. Solomon asked for *wisdom* to build (2nd Chr. 1:7-11) – see Pr. 24:3
 - B. In the fullness of time – Galatians 4:1-7
 1. Anointing is power – saves the lost; heals the sick, delivers the oppressed (seed)
 2. But God's wisdom manifests Christ and His Kingdom “under the law”
 3. This is used in an analogy of the training of children – with tutors (discipline)
 4. Christ is the answer – for only in Him do we get both power and wisdom
- II Christ – grace *and* truth, spirit *and* Word, power *and* wisdom – being “in His image”
- A. John 1:14 – *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth*
 1. He was full of grace – compassion, forgiveness, serving, polite, “under the law”
 2. But He was also full of truth – perfect standard, rebuked pharisees, exposed oppression
 - B. John 14:16- ...*the Father... will give you another Helper... the Spirit of truth*
 1. He is the powerful Spirit of the Trinity – God Himself – raised Christ from the dead
 2. Yet He will guide you *into truth* – the righteousness of the Word of God!
 - C. 1st Corinthians 1:18-24 – *Jews require a sign, Greeks seek after wisdom...*
 1. Seek a sign – power without wisdom; or zeal without knowledge (Ro. 10:1-2)
 2. There are others who seek knowledge alone – but it puffs up (1st Cor. 8:1)
 3. *But to those who are called... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*
 - D. So what shall we say to these things? What is the point of this paradox?
 1. We declare who we are in Christ – we affirm the grace wherein we stand!
 2. We affirm that in time and through the cross, we can become more like Him!
 3. ...*only the Spirit, we blow up, only the Word, we dry up, but both, we grow up!*
 4. We offer the world Christ in us, the hope of Glory – full of power *and* wisdom
 5. The endgame – *the kingsom of this world become His Kingdom* – Revelation 11:15
 6. Quote Randy Alcorn, *Grace and Truth*, pages 13,14,15,17