

2 Corinthians 2
"It's Time to be Holy"

"The second tree [the cross] must be the center. Make it the center of your life and center everything else around it. Partake and live of its fruit." (Jonathan Cohn, The Book of Mysteries)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

1. Paul was determined to do away with their "Tree of Knowledge" thinking by:

2. Paul was determined to not give believers the impression that:

3. Paul was determined to not:

4. Paul was determined to display a total dependence on:

5. Paul was determined to help them place their faith not in fallible man:

1 Corinthians 2:6-8, "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. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

1. We are privileged to be given the wisdom:

2. We are privileged to be given the wisdom God always:

3. There are many things which people would not do if:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10, "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'—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

1. There is absolutely no way to see or hear all that God has prepared for those who love Him:

2. The Holy Spirit sheds light on the truths of God:

1 Corinthians 2:11-13, "¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1. The Spirit of God knows the things of God:

2. The only way to understand the truth of the gospel is:

3. The only way to teach the truth of the gospel is:

4. Those who are spiritual teach the wisdom of the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 14-16, "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. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ 'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ."

1. Those who continue to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil:

2. Those who continue to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil are:

3. Those who eat from the second tree—the cross—have the ability to consider:

4. Those who eat from the second tree understand that:

5. Those who eat from the second tree gladly receive:

Conclusion: