First Corinthians 1:17-2:13 Pt. 2
By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

We'd been sold out and I mean locked stock and barrel. We'd sold out to the devil. It took real. It took a real redemption to redeem us. Took all, all that God and only God could do. And first Peter tells us that. First Peter the first chapter. What a marvelous chapter it is in the world. Tells us how we were bought not the way some folk think, no, but the way God arranged it. I'm talking about first Peter. The first chapter and it's the 19th verse and we read. "He says you to know we really could start with first 18 knowing that you were not greedy. Here it is with perishable things like silver or gold from your feudal way you're useless way of life inherited from your forefathers. But how were you redeemed. With precious blood." If you have sold some valuable thing to a certain buyer, a certain pawn shop and you go to redeem it you can't just redeem it with a pittance, but here our souls were enslaved. It took more than any wealth on Earth could do it or any wisdom or anything else. You where redeemed not with perishable things like silver and gold from your empty way feudal way of life and therefore you fought for. How are you? With precious blood. It took nothing less, nothing more, nothing else. Thank God it did the job. What? But with Precious Blood.

Your own? No no no no no no no. As of a lamb unblemished and spotless. Who was it? The blood of Christ, for he was for known, God had planned this in his precious precious heart. He was for known before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who threw him or believers in God who raised him for the dead gave him glory so that your faith and hope are in God. Yes that's the very chapter the talks about are being born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Here it is again.
Hope is in God, definitely so and for all eternity.

Now that being so that just as it is written, no man is to boast one if you've gotten it all from God. How dare you. How would you want to say that even a particle of it was done by you just as it is written? Let him who boasts verse 31 of the first chapter of First Corinthians quoting from Jeremiah 9:23 where he asks what's worthwhile, this that or the other. Says, "Don't boast in wealth, don't boast in wisdom, Don't boast in strength, boast in this that the one who wants to boast just naturally that way let him who boast, boast in the Lord." If you want to brag brag on the Lord since he's done all. That's only right. France only right since he has done all the glory belongs to him. And don't, please, please do not try to take some of it to yourself. You are robbing God and that is no small offence.

Now in the second chapter he's been taught about wisdom and all he wants to go on man's wisdom versus God's wisdom. In the second chapter the first 16 versus now how does he come to be speaking about these matters? He's going back to basics. He says you know you've gotten your eye off the Lord and you've thought some men have done things and so you're making them the heads of certain groups and parties and leaders. I want you to get back to basics and see where you came from to begin with. And who's done things. Who has done all. So here we're going to have man's wisdom against God's wisdom. We read in verse one of chapter two and when I came to you and me when he came to them in the city of Corinth, he was there for 18 months you remember, and when I came to you brethren I didn't come with superiority of speech. He could have done it as we say today. He could have showed them. One fellow didn't understand what a high faulting speaker was saying. He says please Snow some more, I don't catch the drift.
Well we've got a lot of people that are snowing full and when I came to you brother. I didn't come to superiority speech out of wisdom proclaiming to you the testimony of God. And I say he could have what I'm learning. The Apostle Paul. He said I didn't do it for I determined he had to make a definite determination to wipe out other things to block out other areas other ways. I have to do it this way. And only this way I determined. Thank God he had that determination. Haven't we been the tremendous heirs and beneficiaries of it through the working of the Spirit of God and giving it in written form? I determined to know nothing. That means nothing. Nothing among you accept Jesus Christ and Him crucified and you remember what he said in the first chapter. Christ crucified is to the Jews a stumbling block and Gentiles foolish if you say if Paul's a wise man in Rome do as the Romans in Greece do as the Grecians and America do as the Americans. No, they'd say "Paul, stay away. Stay away from preaching and crucified Christ. They don't go for that. Oh he said I can't help that. I determined to do nothing among you accept Jesus Christ being crucified."

Why give away the only availing weapon and use something that is as firm as a wet noodle. It'll get you nowhere. I was with you in weakness and fear and in much trembling. The central truth of his message was the person and work of Christ. That's what he means when he says I determined no nothing among you accept Jesus Christ had me as his person and him crucified not Jesus Christ as just a teacher or just as a great moral ethical example. Oh no no no no. I determined to know nothing among you and I preached nothing else among you except the marvelous person of Jesus Christ and specifically centrally located the crucifixion of that blessed one. And he said his heart was bowed down before the Lord to have just the right message to give to those to whom he preached. So he says I wasn't going to cover it up. He said I wasn't coming boasting I wasn't going to say let me at them I can do it I'll go it alone, I'll keep a stiff
upper lip. No no no. I was with you in weakness. He wasn't boasting in any strength of his own. He, I'm sure, day after day he prayed Lord use my weakness to bring glory to thyself. I don't have any strength and in fear I can't go on alone and much trembling. You know why? He was dealing with a most potent message the most important message in all the world.

And not only that, he was dealing with souls that have eternal destinies. Saved and unsaved are going to be in existence throughout all eternity don't let anyone tell you if you aren't saved then you just go out of existence. The saved can have Heaven but but you are going to go out of existence, no you won't. No one that's ever come into this world, in any part of the world, any human being, any creature of God made by God's hand whether saved or unsaved no soul will ever go out of existence. That's a tremendously important and heart wrenching thought that even the unsaved, when they go into eternal perdition called eternal death. That doesn't mean they go out of it this is not violation. No, they go on. But they go on in infinite sorrow in infinite woe in infinite agony of separation from the presence of God. Yes they will go that way. The saved will be in God's presence. Bless God for ever so no wonder he knew the issues.

He knew what was at stake. This wasn't just a little totally D and totally dumb. This wasn't just a game of hopscotch. I was with you in weakness and fear much trembling. And my message bless God. He says my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power. Oh that Paul had many many followers. How I pray that God may make this all is available to the ones speaking to you this morning that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of man but on the power of God, hear it. What a vast difference between souls he's preaching saves no one and spiritual preaching which is used of God. Soulless preaching, well they depend so much on the return phrases. That doesn't mean we have to butcher language but don't make that your mainstay his reliance was in what the Spirit of
God would do, could do, and delighted to do and does do. Demonstration of the spirit and of power.

Oh my friends, that's why I tell folks when I preach. Be careful when you are listening to the Word of God. Don't distract, don't turn the lesser things. Don't be visiting with the one next to you because whenever the word of God is preached the Spirit of God is preparing hearts. And there is a certain atmosphere in which he envelops the congregation and you are in a very serious place when you're distracting the work of the Spirit of God. And so he says that your face should not rest on the wisdom of men but on the power of God. Your faith is placed in man's wise words then there are gonna be questions and doubts all the while. Suppose they find some things that that man has said don't turn out to be right. Oh destroys all of it. It's the spirit of God has been doing the work thou in that heart there's going to be effectiveness there. Thank God there will be.

Oh how we need. I can't make it too strong. How we need to pray for our ministers, instead of having roast preacher for dinner on Sunday. Oh roasting the preacher for the way he did this that and the other, why not pray that the word that he gave doubtless we trust out of a sincere heart. Pray that God will use it. Uses the word not our thinking not our words not our wisdom but by the power of God. Pray that it may be sealed and may be used of God. I would be ashamed to preach myself if I did not daily, I mean every day in prayer at our family altar. Remember our pastor and his ministry and godly pastors and godly missionaries around the world. It's a tremendous task we say with Paul who is sufficient for these things.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. Don't ever be afraid that you haven't strutted yourself enough. Pray that you may not stretch yourself at all, that you may be hidden behind the cross. How marvels aware this is. God is to get and deserves and has earned all, A L L all the glory. Now to a wonderful secret to.
You say well I'll be downcast and I'll be bored all my life. No you will have joy unspeakable and full of glory when you allow God to have his glory.

Announcer:

The talk you have just heard is one of a series of messages from the book of First Corinthians taught by Dr. Charles L. Feinberg. The third and final talk on this cassette will begin in just a few moments. These messages were originally heard on the new standard for living radio broadcast produced by Lockman Bible ministries translators of the New American Standard Bible. They Amplified Bible and Bible translations in many languages around the world. If you would like more information about this unusual Ministry of Bible translation and publication we invite you to write to us at new standard for living post office box 5 9 9 9. Sunny Hills California. 9 2 6 3 5. And by the way study notes for this series are also available at the same address. Now here is Dr. Feinberg with his next message and this areas from First Corinthians.

Charles Feinberg:

We're continuing friends in the book of First Corinthians in this the sixth message on this great epistle. We're in the second chapter and we have come to the sixth verse. For those that may not have tuned in previously were indicating that the book of First Corinthians is The Spirit of God through Paul correcting disorders and difficulties problems that appear in churches and it certainly appeared in the Corinthian church in the first century A.D. and the first problem is that of divisions, clicks, groups, parties, systems in the church. Now how would you deal with that?
Well in our modern day there are all kinds of suggestions made. Get some counsellor. Wait for a cooling off period. See what might be a compromise acceptable to both. Come to the bargaining table, talk out their difficulties all. Well, possibly those might help but the spirit of God has another method. He takes them right back to the great unifying truths of the Word of God of our faith, namely the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ especially his work on Calvary where he the power of God and the wisdom of God was crucified for all man so that there is no basis, there is truly no ground for men believing men and women to be divided. There is a tremendous unifying cohesive harmonizing force personality in the body of Christ namely the Lord Jesus and especially his Holy Spirit. There is such a thing we read in Ephesians as well as maintaining. We don't make it but we maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

In the second chapter then we saw Paul said and when I came to your brother and I didn't come a superiority of speech or of wisdom that was sort of cloud the whole issue. When I was proclaiming to you the testimony of God for I determined it took a definite act of the will and determination by Paul to know nothing among you accept Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Why beat the air with words? Why spend time uselessly shadowboxing come right to the heart of it. He said I'm going to come right to the Target Center the person of Christ and his work. Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And then he indicates how when he came to Corinth he did that kind of preaching he said I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. Why? Was he a novice? Oh no he wasn't a novice. The point was that he knew the issues involved. He knew the authority entrusted to him. He knew the high calling that was his. He knew the marvelous person and the tremendous work on Calvary that he was representing. So he was in weakness fear trembling and so he says my message and my preaching word out in persuasive words of wisdom that has a tendency a definite tendency to distract the attention of the hearers. They are
more drawn and attracted to the words even wise words and persuasive words. So he says I didn't make my message and my preaching tremendous models and patterns of elocution and of communicative ability and power but in demonstration of the spirit and the power. Where the Spirit of God is there is power. There is no lack of power and the Spirit of God can demonstrate his presence. Some folks think that the Spirit of God is some kind of an influence. No he is a person and they think his work is something sort of eerie and mysterious. Oh there is an element beyond our understanding. But my friend the spirit of God's working can be demonstrated. And it is a demonstration. Never forget it. A demonstration in power.

Why did Paul choose this road that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God? Yes. Just as we're not defined boasting in ourselves but in the Lord we're not to find strength for effective ministry in ourselves, in our wisdom, in our preparation, and our background in anything that has been our portion before that time. But we're rest wholly and solely entirely on the power of God. Now if the Spirit of God we said has been doing the work in the heart there will be effectiveness there.

So we come still the contrast throughout this second chapter between man's wisdom and Gods and what an important passage this is. Before we're through it you'll see that there is one of the great Cardinal truths of the faith when we're dealing with souls, when we're sharing Christ with them, we've got to take into account what's stated in this second chapter concerning the difficulties that they have in understanding what we're seeing and where the resource is where the wonderful supply is for them to understand and to be able to lay hold by faith on the truth of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and what it accomplished for every sinner. So we're reading first Corinthians chapter 2 verse 6 I trust you who are listening in will not just take it by hearing, but see, get it in the eye gate and get it in the ear gate both. Yet we do speak says Paul, "Yet we
do speak wisdom not the kind of persuasive words of wisdom that man would have. But there is a wisdom a higher wisdom among those who are mature those who are knowledgeable made knowledgeable by God a wisdom however not of this age nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away." It's not a world of wisdom but we speak wisdom in a mystery The Hidden Wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory. The wisdom to 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. In verse six he says I don't want you to think that I'm going to deal only in the babyhood features, the elementary features of the things of God I'm not going to berate your ability as believers. I want you to understand that we are going to speak of wisdom among those who are mature, made mature in the faith just because we don't take the way of worldly wisdom we may not use their language we may not use their phraseology we may not use their terminology it doesn't mean though that our terminology is any less valuable. In fact it's more, it's more powerful, more effective, it's more mightily used of God and he says a wisdom not of this age. You see the Christian faith is one of divine revelation first last and always. It's not a man's theory. It wasn't worked up by some committee of even learned ones, philosophers, scientists, Great minds. No it's not of this age nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away their only transitory. They're only temporary man has a limit of his stay here on Earth. He says we're not speaking that kind of wisdom but we do speak God's wisdom. Notice how throughout here there's a contrast. Man's wisdom so called God's wisdom was speaking God's wisdom and of history the Hidden Wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory.

It's something the world knows nothing of that which is only made known and manifest by God alone. You may say well that's not fair. What do you mean by fair when God makes it available at all. It couldn't be unfair if a man will not take a gift if man will not take that which is
provided for him. He cannot blame, he cannot fault the one who is giving it. Here it is. We are speaking God's wisdom, intimacy is something that's hidden. That God had ordered it before the ages to our glory so that we might ultimately receive glory. And he says that wisdom that I'm talking about. Amazingly enough you'd think the great ones of this world would recognize it in a split moment, but they didn't. Here we read that the rulers of this age didn't understand it. If they had understood it they would have crucified the Lord of Glory. How obtuse, how slow to grasp were they of spiritual things. They may have known governmental things civil things political things things of this world they may have known some things of interpersonal relationship, but they ultimately did not know what they were doing in the fullest sense when they crucified the Lord of glory.

Oh you say well that's fine. That means they go scot free. No no no no. That doesn't mean they're guiltless. No, they will be judged up to the point of their light. But if they had been willing to proceed on that light, God would have given them more light. But light offer and rejected means only greater darkness. They're gonna be just up to the point of their light. Their responsibility is in direct proportion to their knowledge of the truth. Think of it. The rule was that age thought they were just judging a man. A good man. A religious man. A great moral example. They had no element concept when they crucified the Lord of glory, not mistreated him, not ostracized him, but crucified placed him on a cross. Who? Some man, the Lord of glory, but justice is written things which I have not seen an ear has not heard and which have not entered the heart of man. All that God has prepared for those who love him for to us God reveal them through the Spirit for the spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. Many folk read first Corinthians to nine and stop there and they think they're talking about something in heaven. Some even read these things at a funeral service. Things that I haven't seen you've never
seen it before you've never heard anything like it it has never entered into your reflective processes it's never entered into your heart the heart of man. All that God has prepared for those who love it. Now that is wrong to stop there for to us. You must go on diverse. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit for the spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. Here again is a contrast between man's wisdom or un-wisdom actually and God's.

Why did they not understand? None of the rulers of this age understood, if they had understood they would have acted differently. Why then did they not understand? Because, hear it, they were judging by eye witness eye testimony. They were judging by ear testimony and in a court of law today. That's the only way you can get a witness to indicate that which is in the realm of the historic or factual or that which has actually happened. He must be an eyewitness. He must be an ear witness not hear say, but he heard so-and-so say that. And there's another avenue by which we get material and get thought processes going. That which has entered the heart of man entered into his reflective processes his mind. How I have not seen any of that. They couldn't possibly conceive by the three natural avenues that the natural man gets to know anything says Paul, the human eye, and the human ear, and the human heart couldn't possibly lay a hold. It's like trying to teach a child calculus, nuclear physics before he's ever learned the arithmetic of grammar school or the multiplication table are his additions or subtractions or divisions. It's all beyond him. God prepared that for those who love him. They didn't have it. They didn't love God, but to us believers. God has revealed these marvelous things. How? Through a little extra courses through more application, more notes? No, more research? Not at all. Through the Spirit, that's capital S.

Oh beloved let's be giving more and more of the proper credit to the blessed Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity God reveals them through the spirit that's what makes spirit
birth the spirit regenerates. That's what makes but it's a life be property related to the Holy Spirit. I remember how often my professor of theology used to say if a person has to become a believer a Christian he must be properly related to Christ. If he is to be a spiritual Christian he must be in addition properly related to the Holy Spirit. And we're going to see in chapter 3 what happens when some are related to Christ and don't go on in maturity and lay whole upon all that has been offered us and provided for us through the indwelling blessed spirit of God. So to ask God to reveal these things through the Spirit things that I can't see I can't figure it out and air can't and the mind of man can't either. For the spirit. How is it that the spirit can reveal these? He searches, he thoroughly understands and knows a l l all things. There isn't a single thing that he doesn't know. He is omniscient. What does that mean? That means he knows all things actual or potential. And the same thing is true of this blessed spirit is true of God the Father. Yes. And it is also true of the Blessed Holy Spirit. It was Dr. Ironside, who was one of my professors in seminary in Bible. He was a visiting Bible teacher in seminary when I was in Dallas Theological Seminary. A student later on as I taught there as well. We were colleagues. And God marvelously blessed my life through this great man of God. A recent trip to New Zealand we were able there at Auckland to go by and pay our respects to his grave, for he died there and was buried there by his half-sister and her family. Beautiful word on his grave forever with the Lord.

He said on this ninth verse of First Corinthians to the Apostle declared that in making known the gospel he sought to use all simplicity of speech. But when it came to opening up the truth of God to believers there are deep things, wonderfully precious truths that cannot be given to the world at large. Which form the Hidden Wisdom of God and what the rulers of the world friends could never know. God has been pleased to impart to his own. Whether you had a lot of what we call formal education or not, scholastic training or not the spirit of God will reveal it to
your heart if you are willing. Then look at that verse 10. What others may not know and cannot
know who are unbelievers. Remarkably in doubt as they may be with many natural abilities.
What they can't know God has revealed to us. Remember that lay hold on that. Yes, they have
been revealed God has revealed them to us not is going to be will continue to reveal more and
more but his revealed these deep things. And it's the Holy Spirit who searches. It's not that he
doesn't know so that he has to search but he searches through us. And then we read for who
among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him. Even so the
thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. not on the human plane and the human
realm we all understand there just as we know what goes on in the human plane in the human
condition as it's called so the Spirit of God knows what goes on in the divine place. Let me
illustrate this rather quickly if I accidentally, and I hope it's only accidentally with anyone. If I
accidentally step on the paw of a dog, and he is hurt and he yelps and he cries out from pain. I
don't know how he feels because I've never been a dog I don't have the spirit of a dog in me, but
if I accidentally in haste unintentionally stepped on the toe even perhaps a bruised toe that’s
bandaged up of a human being. And that person cries out I know how that person feels because
I'm a human being too and I have it in my lifetime have different parts of my body that were in
pain so I can understand that.

Now if I cannot understand what is on a plane lower than the human plane on the animal
plane, I certainly can't understand what's on a plane above us. For instance among angels I don't
know how angels feel. I don't understand what their means of communication is I don't know
what their reactions are their emotions their thoughts. It's never been an angel, never expect to
be. A redeemed human being. And we'll be made an image of the Lord Jesus. That doesn't mean
that we're going to become angels it doesn't mean we're going to be a deity, we'll be always
redeemed humanity. Hallelujah. Thank God for that. Now if I don't know what's below me in the animal plane and don't know what's above me on the angelic plane then however in all that is reasonable in Heaven or on Earth. How can I understand what's on the divine plane. I've never been divine. I'm in dwelt by a divine personality I am saved by divine operation the Spirit of God that does not make me divine. I can only understand the things of the Spirit of God because he reveals them to me only those who are granted this truth by God Spirit can know what's on the divine plane. That's exactly what he means. Who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of a man? Which is it if you have a human spirit you have a human inclination. You have human feelings, you have human outlook and perspective. Therefore you can understand the thoughts of a man. This is the same holds true when you get to the divine. Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. No wonder Isaiah said in the fifty fifth chapter as the heavens are higher than the Earth. So are my thoughts then your thoughts.

Oh friends, how I would love to hammer this truth not only into your heart and mind but into my own as well and to all everywhere in the household of faith. How important this is. How in the world can we ever expect to know things of God if we're just dealing with human abilities and capacities and talents and knowledge? We can't, we absolutely cannot. Now verse twelve now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit who is from God. Of course we're being felt by the Spirit of God. That we might know the things freely given to us by God. Oh there are a number of reasons why the Spirit of God indwells us. But here is one of the tremendously vital central focal points, we have not received the Spirit of the world. The spirit of the world didn’t know anything about spiritual matters. It's a small small essay of spirit of the world the humans there but the spirit Capital who is from God that we might know the things pretty given to us by God.
What's the spirit of the world? Why, that's the spirit of apes, the spirit of man. This spirit is limited is confined by the material the earthly the terrestrial it can find out, hear me, only it can find out only that which is susceptible to investigation to observation to experimentation and to human consideration, but bless the Lord The Spirit of God has infinitely greater freedom than this forty freely gives us the things of God. Oh what a tremendous gift it is, a king, who wanted to express his deep affection for a private soldier of his army who had gone way beyond the call of duty. That king who wanted to express his appreciation and affection gave that private soldier one day a richly jeweled cup, his own cup. The soldier when he stepped forth to receive the gift tremendously taken aback and all he could utter he exclaimed shame faithfully. Your Majesty, this is far too great a gift for me to receive. The King answered immediately. It is not too great a gift for me to give. Right. The Lord gives us His Holy Spirit to abide with us and to dwell us not because we can see all that God is intended. We may say that's too great a gift for me to receive. God says it's not too great a gift for me to give, because he is the one that you must absolutely depend upon. You must absolutely have him if you can understand that things have of God. And he goes on to say it's freely given to us by God which things we also speak.

What things? The things given of God. Spiritually not in words but by human wisdom. Let's not keep using the world's vocabulary. But in those taught for the spirit. There is a spiritual vocabulary combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. If that is a marvelous definition of verbal inspiration it's God's spiritual thoughts couched and contained in spiritual vocabulary. The Gospel, hear it, is in no sense the product of the wisdom of man. It's the revelation of spiritual things in spiritual words by the Holy Spirit. The vocabulary and terminology are definitely his and verbal inspiration is the only kind The Bible speaks of. Well another reason to. If God is talking about heavily matters in which we have no means or power or insight to enter. How in
the world are we going to be able to use a vocabulary equal to it? Why we'd be bankrupt right away God says I know it. I will not only convey to you spiritual thoughts but spiritual thoughts to be of meaning must also be couched, must be set in spiritual words. That's why my dear friends it is so important. I want to impress on you, be one of those who not only reads the word of God but Harbor up, harbor up, store up that blessed word in your heart. Thy words says the Psalmist, have a hid in my heart that I might not sin against the. Oh, what a great corrective it is, what a great and wonderful safeguard it is. My friend, what about you? Are you trying? You said well I've never received Jesus as savior. I'll just try to understand some of these things on my own, you'll never get there, you'll never get there, believe it. If the psalmist who was redeemed soul could see the wisdom of God it is so high I cannot attain unto it, then what about the wonderful truths given in the completion of redemption in the New Testament. It far far above what human mind can tell. And you may hear a professor, a doctoral philosophy speaking disparagingly of things of God, but don't think that you got to take that seriously. He doesn't have the wherewithal, he doesn't have the equipment to understand. Poor man is talking out of ignorance an abundance of it. Don't be led astray friends spiritual thoughts couched. In spiritual words.

Announcer:

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