WONDERFUL THINGS IN THE BIBLE

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**DATE: 1/9/2019 Wed.**

**TEXT: I Corinthians 2:6-13 (Stand and read)**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Bible is the Revelation of God

The word Revelation simply means *a disclosure, to show*

(And) In theology is applied to God *disclosing* Himself to mankind

Without revelation, we wouldn't know anything about God

And God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through His Word (Both oral and written)

Today, man’s sole source of his understanding of God comes through His Written Word, the Bible

It is said that George Mueller, after having read the Bible through 100 times, made this statement: *“I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God.”*

Many like George Mueller have found that God's Word is a delightful book to read and study

Why? Well …

Like the Hymn writer wrote –

*“I am so glad that my Father in heaven,
Tells of His love in the Book He has given.
Wonderful things in the Bible I see,
This is the dearest that Jesus loves me”*

One of the joys of reading the Bible is the many wonderful things in the Bible we see

The Bible is the book of God's Revelation

And of the many wonderful things God has for His children

An unknown writer said this about the Bible, “This Book is the Mind of God, the State of Man, the Way of Salvation, the Doom of Sinners, and the Happiness of Believers. Its Doctrines are Holy, its Precepts are Binding; its Histories are True, and its Decisions are Immutable. Read it to be Wise, Believe it to be Safe, Practice it to be Holy. It contains Light to Direct you, Food to Support you, and Comfort to Cheer you. It is the Traveler's Map, the Pilgrim's Staff, the Pilot's Compass, the Soldier's Sword, and the Christian's Character. Here Paradise is Restored, Heaven Opened, and the Gates of Hell Disclosed. Christ is its Grand Subject, our Good its Design, and the Glory of God its End. It should Fill the Memory, Rule the Heart, and Guide the Feet. Read it Slowly, Frequently, Prayerfully. It is a Mine of Wealth, a Paradise of Glory, and a River of Pleasure. Follow its Precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the Empty Tomb, to a Resurrected Life in Christ; yes, to Glory itself, for Eternity.

Yes, the Bible is indeed a Goldmine of Wealth, a Paradise of Glory, and a River of Pleasure

It’s the Only Book that God wrote about Himself

In our Text, we are reminded that God's Revelation of Truth, His Holy Word, the Bible …

… Is a book that reveals the many wonderful things God has for His people

And from our text, let's think about these wonderful Truths about God's Word

I’d like to preach on …

**“The Wonderful Things in the Bible We See”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “TESTIMONY” OF GOD’S WORD – vs. 6-8**

A Testimony is *the evidence or the proof provided by the existence of someone or something*

The Bible gives Testimony that God exists

In **vs. 6-8**, Paul declares the Testimony of God's Word

**A. God's Word is ‘Distinctive’**

**Distinct** – *something that* *is recognizably different in its nature from everything else*

**v. 6 - *“Howbeit (therefore) we speak (God’s) wisdom among (to) them that are perfect (of understanding): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:”***

If we look back at **v. 5,** we see Paul saying this …

***“That our faith should not stand (be in) in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”***

So, when he says - ***“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect:”***

He’s talking about teaching the Wisdom of God to saved people (people who understand)

I know we’re not perfect now, but we will be one day

It’s as though we already are, it’s as good as done

**Philippians 3:15 – *“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you”***

Paul uses the words ***“this world”*** in his description of 2 things

***“wisdom”*** and ***“princes”***

When Paul uses the words ***“this world”*** …

He is describing the Philosophy of the Famous Thinkers and Leaders of the ages (apart from God)

People like Plato and Aristotle, Alexander and Caesar

But in contrast … in **v. 7,** we hear him say

***“But We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:”***

Paul speaks of ***“the Wisdom of God”***

And the conjunction ***“but”*** is setting God's Wisdom apart from the wisdom of man

In **v. 6** Paul also states that the ***“wisdom”*** of these great thinkers and leaders will ***“come to nought”***

The wisdom of man *will come to nothing*

Secular Humanist are Men who believe that Mankind is the source of all wisdom

Their goal is man’s self-remediation without reference to, or help from God

It’s the *“I can do it on my own”* philosophy

They have turned away from Biblically Revealed Truth and unto naturalistic thinking

Characterized by the rejection of Biblical authority and Truth,

It leads toward an openly secular form of humanist religion

If man thinks he is the solution to his problems, he’s doing a poor job, where has it gotten them?

The wisdom of this world as come, and will come, to naught / nothing

And the Wisdom and Truth of God is in direct Contrast to the wisdom of man

God's Word is Eternal Truth (Which is the only Truth)

It will never come to Naught nor be Disproved

I’ve said it before, and I will say it again – Truth is Not Relative! (You can’t make up Truth)

The Bible is Distinct from any of Man’s Wisdom

The Bible is in a category all its own

It is the only book known to man that is without Error, Contradiction, Flaw, or Mistake

Men have tried to Discredit and Disprove the Bible, but every attempt has failed

Why? Because it is Eternal Truth

And according to **Ps. 119:89** it is *Forever Settled in Heaven*

A Russian Dictionary defines the Bible as a *“collection of fantastic legends without scientific support. It is full of dark hints, historical mistakes, and contradictions. It serves as a factor for gaining power and subjugating unknowing nations”*

Yet I remind you that the Power, Influence, and Philosophies of Russia have failed throughout their history

But the Bible has never waned in its Power or Influence

That’s because it’s not from man but from God

The Bible is not only ‘**Distinctive’**

(One that stands above all others)

But we also see that …

**B. God's Word is ‘Disclosed’ (Discoverable)**

In **v. 7** Paul speaks of the Word of God in the form of a *mystery or something hidden*

(But has now been Revealed)

***“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:”***

The word ***“mystery”*** is based on a word which conveyed the ideal of *shutting the mouth*

Its biblical usage refers to *something that was hidden in the past and has now been revealed*

He is speaking of Divine Truth that was once unknown

But now God as chosen to reveal it

**Matthew 13:35 – *“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world”***

We read in **v. 8 – “*Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”***

Paul tells us, how the Truth, of *Christ Crucified,* was not understood

**II Corinthians 4:4 – *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,***

***lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”***

Those who crucified the Lord had no idea that they were crucifying the Saviour of the World

Or else they would not have done it

It was this Truth they did not see or comprehend

**Romans 16:25, 26 – *“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,” “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”***

God's Word existed long before the world began

**v. 7 b - *“which God ordained (ordered) before the world” (began)***

And it has now been Progressively revealed over time

Paul is teaching us that God's Word has been Disclosed and is Discoverable

God has given us His Word

The Bible is the Word of God

It has been given to us Progressively over the centuries

Let me put emphasis on the words *has been given*

The Bible has been Disclosed *Progressively* and it has now been given *Completely*

There are No further need for Revelation

God's Word is complete

This is the testimony of the Word of God itself

It is a Distinctive Book and is in a class all its own

It is God's Revealed Truth given to you and I

And we can Discovery it if we want

**THE “TESTIMONY” OF GOD’S WORD**

**II. THE “TREASURE” OF GOD'S WORD – vs. 9, 10, 12**

Next, Paul tells us that God's Word is a Priceless Treasure

I think we’d all agree to that

The Bible is like a Treasure Chest, because in it, is God’s Gift of Redemption through Jesus Christ

And in His Gift of Redemption we see …

**A. The Things God has ‘Prepared’ – vs. 9, 10**

Paul says in **v. 9 – *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him”***

This is a verse that is often misused and misquoted

Rarely is it used correctly (in conjunction w/ **v.10**)

Most of the time it is used to speak of heaven

And the new reality that is coming one day

While it’s true we don’t really know all what God has in store for us

According to these verses we can know what He has in store for us today, though

These verses are not talking about things that we must wait until we get to heaven to enjoy

They are talking about the things that God has Prepared for his people that can be enjoyed and experienced right now

Carefully notice **v. 10 – *“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”***

We are told that the Holy Spirit has or will reveal these things to us

What are the things that have been Prepared for us?

These Prepared things are the things God's Redemptive Plan provides for every believer

The word redeem means *“to buy back”*

The word Redeem is found 142 times while the word Redemption is found 20 times in the Bible

The term is often used in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom

The application of this term to Christ’s death on the cross is quite telling

If we are ***“redeemed,”*** then our prior condition was one of slavery

God has purchased our freedom, and we are no longer in bondage to sin or always trying to keep the 10 Commandments to earn God’s approval

The use of the word ***“redemption”*** is the teaching of **Galatians 3:13** & **4:5**

***“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”***

***“To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons”***

God’s Redemption grants us freedom from the guilt, condemnation, and shame of our sin

**v. 9** tells us that the riches of God's Redemptive plan are beyond human Observation (eye hath not seen, nor ear heard)

And beyond human Contemplation (neither have entered into the heart of man)

Men can’t figure them out on their own

Why? Because it’s a Work of the Holy Spirit

**Things God has ‘Prepared’**

Paul than, speaks about …

**B. The Things God has ‘Presented’ – v. 12**

We read in **v. 12 – “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”***

There are not only the things God has Prepared for them that love Him,

But there are also the things He has ***“freely given”*** or **Presented** to us

I think of what Paul said in **Ephesians 1:3 –**

***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”***

We have been blessed with all blessings in the Spirit

These glorious blessings have been given to us by grace

It is in this sense, that the Bible is a Treasure

It’s this Book (Bible) that teaches us and shows us what God has Prepared and Presented to His people to enjoy

It is the Book that informs us of all that is ours to enjoy and experience

I think of the words that were found in Billy Sunday's Bible after he died. He wrote *“Twenty-nine years ago, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down the corridor of the Old Testament art galleries, where pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, and Daniel hung on the wall. I passed into the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit sweeps the keyboard of nature until it seems that every reed and pipe in God's great organ responds to the harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel.” “I entered into the chamber of Ecclesiastes, where the voice of the preacher is heard, and into the conservatory of Sharon and the lily of the valley where sweet spices filled and perfumed my life.” “I entered into the business office of Proverbs and on into the observatory of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes pointing off to far away events, concentrating on the Bright and Morning Star which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation and redemption.” “I entered into the audience room of the King of kings, catching a vision written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Thence into the correspondence room with Paul, Peter, James, and John writing their epistles.” “I stepped into the throne room of Revelation where towered glittering peaks, where sits the King of Kings upon His throne of glory with the healing of nations in His hand, and I cried out: All hail the power of Jesus name! Let angel's prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.”*

This Book is filled with the Wonders of God!

It’s for this reason, every believer ought to read and study their Bible on a daily basis

The Barna Research Group did a survey that found that only 12% of all-American adults read the Bible every day of the week. They found that 52% did not read it at all. Another 33% read the Bible at least once during a typical week. But on the other hand, Only 1 in 4 (26%) of evangelicals read the Bible daily; another 50% said …

… that they read it only once a week or more. But 22% of evangelicals reported that they never read the Bible outside of church.

And we wonder why Christianity is the way it is

Maybe you’re wondering why your life is the way it is

 That’s tragic when we realize that the Bible is the Book that reveals to us what God has Prepared and Presented

That’s tragic when we realize there is so much God wants us to know that is for our Enjoyment and Experience

**THE “TREASURE” OF GOD’S WORD**

**THE “TESTIMONY” OF GOD’S WORD**

The third and final thing we see is …

**III. THE “TEACHER” OF GOD'S WORD – vs. 10-13**

Understanding the importance the Bible plays in our life is key

It is the means whereby God Reveals what He wants us to enjoy and experience

But it is also Important to be able to Understand the Bible

If we cannot Understand the Bible, then it stands to reason that we could never Understand what God has Prepared and Presented

In **vs. 10-13**, Paul tells us therefore that God had provided a Teacher for us

The blessed Holy Spirit, to enable us to understand God's Word

**John 14:26 – *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall Teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”***

First, let’s look at how …

**A. The Holy Spirit is the ‘Giver’ of the Bible**

Notice **v. 10 a** – **“*But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit...”***

Paul declares that it is through the Person of the Holy Spirit that God's Word was given

Here we have a statement concerning the Inspiration of the Bible

We read in **II Peter 1:21 – “*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”***

Also in **II Timothy 3:16** we read – **“*All scripture is given by inspiration of God”***

The word ***“inspiration”*** means - *God breathed*

The ideal is that God through the person of the Holy Spirit gave us the Bible

***“not … by the will of man”***

We must never forget that the Bible is not just another best seller or some popular book

It’s God’s Book

It is the Word of God!

Then, finally …

**B. The Holy Spirit is the ‘Guide’ to the Bible**

Notice **v. 13 – “*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”***

There is not only the matter of Inspiration,

But also, the matter of Illumination (Bring to light)

The Holy Spirit not only Gave us the Bible,

But He also Teaches us the Bible (understandable)

Again, notice **v. 10 – “*But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”***

The word ***“searcheth”*** is Not talking about *searching for information*

That word means *to penetrate*

The word *Penetrate* means *to get into*

The Holy Spirit penetrates the deep things of God

He gets into the deep things of God

Being God, He knows the deep things of God

We read in **v. 11 – “*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God”***

Nobody knows you any better than yourself

That is what Paul had in mind when he spoke of the spirit of man which is in him

I know myself better than anyone (Save God)

Likewise, the Holy Spirit knows God better than anyone

Why? He’s God

**v. 12 – “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God”***

He is the only one qualified to Teach us about God,

Who has revealed Himself in His Word

**v. 12** also tells us that we have received the Spirit of God

He lives within us, He indwells the spirit of man

He indwells us for many reasons and one of them is so that He might help us to understand what God has revealed in His Word

A lady once read a certain book and said it was one of the most boring books she had ever read. She fell in love with a man and learned that he was the author of that book. She read the book again and said it was one of the best she had ever read.

What made the difference? She knew the author

If you know the author of the Bible, then you have the ability to understand the Bible

He is our Divine Teacher and Guide to the Bible

Not me or some other preacher

How many have every heard of the evangelist Hyman Appleman? (He was a Messianic Jew) (I heard him speak as a young Christian) Someone once told me this wonderful story about him. They were staying in the same motel. They went to visit Dr. Appleman in his room. When they walked into his room, Dr. Appleman was on his knees with his Bible in front of him. He would pray for a moment and ask God to help him to understand the Word. Then he would say something like, *"Yes, I see. That's good,"* And write it down.

When I was in Bible Institute I took a course called Hermeneutics, Principles of Bible Study and Interpretation,

But may I say that someone does not have to go to Bible Institute or Seminary to understand the Bible

If you are saved, the Holy Spirit, Who is the Teacher of the Bible, lives in you

You can learn and know the Bible

Some people's knowledge of the Bible is a tragedy

**Humor:** I think of the fellow who was preaching and said: “Once upon a time a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves and the thorns grew up and choked that man and he went on and he didn't have no money and he met the Queen of Sheba, and she gave that man - she gave that man, sir, a thousand talents of gold and silver and a hundred changes of raiment's. And when he was driving along under a big tree, his hair got caught in a limb and left him a hanging there. Yes, sir. And he hung there many days and many nights and the ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink. And one night while he was hanging there asleep, his wife, Delilah, came along and cut his hair off, …

… and he dropped and fell on stony ground and it began to rain and it rained forty days and forty nights. And he hid himself in a cave. And the man went out into the highways and byways and compelled him to come in. He went on and came to Jerusalem and he seen Queen Jezebel sitting high up in the window and when he saw her he laughed and said, "Throw her down out of there," and they threw her down. And he said, "Throw her down again," and they threw her down, seventy times seventy times and the fragments they picked up were twelve baskets full. Now whose wife will she be in the days of judgment?”

It is obvious that the fellow knew the Bible …

But at the same time did not know the Bible

We must confess there is a lot of ignorance concerning the Bible

This ignorance is due to one of two things

-- Either someone is unsaved and does not have the Teacher of the Bible living in them

-- Or they are Not letting the Holy Spirit Teach them

There is so much this Bible can Teach us

It tells us of the many wonderful things God has Prepared and Presented to the believer

For that reason, our prayer ought to be that of **Psalm 119:18 – *“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law”***

God's Word is a wonderful book

There are many wonderful things in the Bible to see

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “TESTIMONY” OF GOD’S WORD**

**THE “TREASURE” OF GOD’S WORD**

**THE “TEACHER” OF GOD’S WORD**