

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
FIRST CORINTHIANS**

Message Three

The Depths of God

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 2:6-10

- I. In 1 Corinthians 2:10 *the depths of God* refers to the deep things of God:**
- A. We need to know God according to His depths—the divine matters that God regards as deep—Rom. 11:33.
 - B. The depths of God, the deep things of God, are Christ in many aspects as our eternal portion, foreordained, prepared, and given to us freely by God—1 Cor. 2:10.
 - C. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Paul reveals Christ as the depths of God:
 - 1. Christ being the depths of God means that He is the deep things of God, the things that are not superficial—Eph. 3:8.
 - 2. Christ, the all-inclusive and extensive One, is truly the depths of God—1 Cor. 2:10.
 - 3. To know the depths of God is to know Christ in many aspects as our eternal portion—1:24.
 - D. If we carefully consider the entire content of 1 Corinthians—an Epistle that presents Christ in His all-inclusiveness—we will realize that the depths of God are not merely divine, spiritual elements or an impersonal substance deep in God's being; we will eventually realize that the depths of God are the all-inclusive Christ—1:30; 5:7b-8a; 10:3-4; 15:20.
 - E. As we know, experience, and enjoy Christ, we eventually enter into the depths of God's being—2:10:
 - 1. Then we realize that we are in the heart, the depths, of the Almighty God and that He becomes our inner element—Eph. 1:3.
 - 2. When we enjoy Christ, we touch the depths of God, and God becomes the divine element within us—4:18; 2:4; 1 John 1:5; Rom. 1:16b-17a.
 - F. As we advance in our experience of the all-inclusive Christ, one day we will begin to know Him as the depths of God—Phil. 3:10.
- II. The depths of God mentioned in 1 Corinthians 2:10 are intrinsically related to key words in verses 6 through 10—*wisdom, mystery, predestined, glory, love, and the Spirit*:**
- A. “We do speak wisdom...but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory”—vv. 6-7:
 - 1. God's wisdom in a mystery is the all-inclusive Christ as the deep things of God—v. 10.
 - 2. Christ is wisdom “among those who are full-grown” and thus have the capacity to know and experience the wisdom that has been hidden in God—vv. 6-7.
 - 3. God's wisdom is Christ (1:24), who is the hidden mystery (Col. 1:26-27), predestined, pre-designated, and foreordained before the ages for our glory.
 - 4. God's wisdom in a mystery, which has been hidden in God, is the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches and immeasurable dimensions—Eph. 3:8, 18.
 - 5. God's wisdom in a mystery hidden in God is wisdom which “God predestined before the ages for our glory”; a key word here is *predestined*—1 Cor. 2:7:

- a. To predestinate is to mark out and determine beforehand the final outcome, or the destiny, of a certain matter or person.
- b. God selected us before the foundation of the world, marking us out beforehand; marking out beforehand is the process, whereas predestination is the purpose—Eph. 1:5, 11.
- 6. For our glorification we need Christ as the wisdom of God in a mystery, which God predestined for our glory—1 Cor. 2:7.
- 7. *Our glory* in 1 Corinthians 2:7 is corporate—the corporate expression of the God of glory in the church as the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:6; 3:21; Rev. 21:10-11a.
- B. “As it is written, ‘Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him’”—1 Cor. 2:9:
 - 1. To realize and participate in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us requires us not only to believe in Him but also to love Him—Mark 12:30.
 - 2. To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength—absolutely on Him—v. 30:
 - a. This requires that we let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us, and we are one with Him practically in our daily life—Rom. 8:5-6; Eph. 3:17; 4:15, 20-21; Col. 3:1, 3-4, 11, 15-17.
 - b. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God, and we are able to enter into His heart and apprehend all its secrets—1 John 1:3; Psa. 73:25; 25:14.
 - c. We not only realize but also experience, enjoy, and fully participate in the deep and hidden things of God—1 Cor. 2:10.
 - 3. After speaking of God’s wisdom in a mystery, which God predestined for our glory, Paul says that we cannot know and experience Christ as God’s wisdom in a mystery unless we love Him—v. 9.
- C. “To us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God”—v. 10:
 - 1. Knowing the depths of God is absolutely dependent on the Spirit, who not only searches these depths but also knows them:
 - a. The Spirit is the unique way of knowing the depths of God—v. 10.
 - b. The Spirit is the source of our obtaining knowledge of the mysterious things hidden in the depths of God—v. 11; Rom. 8:11, 16; John 14:26.
 - 2. Only the Spirit of reality can search and make real to us Christ as the depths of God—v. 17; 15:26.
 - 3. The Spirit of God explores the depths of God concerning Christ and shows them to us in our spirit for our realization and participation—1 Cor. 2:11-12.
 - 4. As we advance in the experience and enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, we will enter into Christ as the depths of God through the Spirit who searches and leads us into these depths, making the deep things of God real to us—John 15:4-5, 7; 16:13; 1 John 4:6; 5:6.

III. In the context of the whole book of 1 Corinthians, *the depths of God* (2:10) refers to the all-inclusive Christ who, as the life-giving Spirit, indwells our spirit—Rom. 8:11:

- A. These depths can be realized and discerned not by our philosophical mind but only by our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit of God—John 3:6; Rom. 8:11.
- B. By means of the mingled spirit alone can we discern the depths of God, the different aspects of the all-inclusive Christ as our portion for our enjoyment—1 Cor. 6:17.
- C. If we exercise the mingled spirit, we will experience and enjoy Christ not in a superficial way but as the depths of God and even in the depths of God—2:10.
- D. Gradually, we will simultaneously enter into the heart of God and experience Christ as the deep things of God becoming the constituent of our inner being—Eph. 3:8, 16-18.