

Introduction - *"The Sermon under Fire!*

How to listen [or preach] a sermon - part two

The Hiddenness of God's Wisdom
(1 Corinthians 2:6-10a)

God reveals himself to those who have the Spirit and this Spirit deeply knows the Father!
(1 Corinthians 2:10b-12)

What the goal of a real sermon is
(1 Corinthians 2:13)

Unspiritual vrs. Spiritual People
(1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Regeneration
John 3:1-20

Are you regenerated?

Do you live/think that way?

Application - *"The spiritual dynamics of sermon listening!"*

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — ¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

John 3:1-20

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."



SOUTH AFRICA

Hope Summer Project - 2009

June 8th - August 12th, 2009

For more information, contact Pastor Steve @ steve@hopecc.com

INFORMATIONAL LUNCH - May 3rd, 2009



PREVIOUSLY ON

**CHURCH IN CRISIS:
A STUDY OF FIRST
CORINTHIANS**

Paul's further attempt to get rid of divisions – *“How to listen to a sermon – part one”*

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

How to Preach a Sermon! – part one
[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

How to Preach a Sermon! – part one

[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

1. Know with all your heart that it is not about you. In fact, God will work in spite of you at times!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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How to Preach a Sermon! – part one

[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

2. Preach the precious message of the crucified Christ

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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How to Preach a Sermon! – part one

[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

3. Be afraid... Be very afraid!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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How to Preach a Sermon! – part one

[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

4. Expect God to show up and transform people

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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How to Preach a Sermon! – part one

[How to listen to a sermon! – part uno

5. The ultimate goal in preaching - life transformation, through faith, and by the power of God.

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How to Preach a Sermon! – part two
[How to listen to a sermon! – part deux]

How to Preach a Sermon! – part two

[How to listen to a sermon! – part deux

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹

However, as it is written:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived

what God has prepared for those who love him” — *[Isaiah 64:4]*

¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit

How to Preach a Sermon! – part two

[How to listen to a sermon! – part deux

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

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¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” *[Isaiah 40:13]*

But we have the mind of Christ.

How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

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1. The “Hiddenness” of God’s wisdom

1 Corinthians 2:6-10a

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“I have never seen thee, O Lord my God; I do not know thy form. What, O most high Lord, shall this man do, an exile far from thee? What shall thy servant do, anxious in his love of thee, and cast out afar from thy face? He pants to see thee, and thy face is too far from him. He longs to come to thee, and thy dwelling place is inaccessible. He is eager to find thee, and knows not thy place. He desires to seek thee, and does not know thy face. Lord, thou art my God, and thou art my Lord, yet never have I seen thee. It is thou that hast made me, and hast made me anew, and hast bestowed upon me all the blessings I enjoy; and not yet do I know thee. Finally, I was created to see thee and not yet have I done that for which I was made....Why did he shut us away from the light, and cover us over with darkness?... From a native country into exile, from the vision of God into our present blindness, from the joy of immortality into the bitterness and horror of death. Miserable exchange of how great a good, for how great an evil! Heavy loss, heavy grief, heavy all our fate!”



~ Anselm, eleventh-century Archbishop of Canterbury
(Proslogion, sect. 1).

How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

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How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

2. God has been revealed to us -- > who have the Spirit -- > who deeply knows the Father

1 Corinthians 2:10b-12

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.



How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

2. The whole thing has been revealed to us who have the Spirit who deeply knows the Father

1 Corinthians 2:10b-12

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How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

3. What the goal of a real sermon is

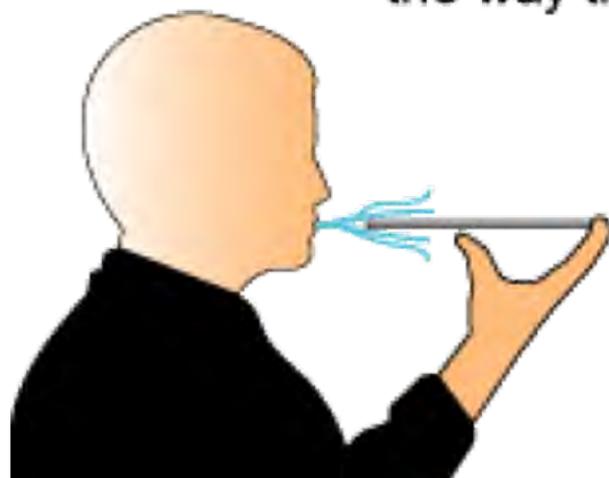
1 Corinthians 2:13

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When a straw is unobstructed, it is easy to blow air all the way through it.



But when the end is blocked off, you cannot blow air into it.

How to Preach [Listen to] a Sermon! – part two

4. Unspiritual vrs. Spiritual People

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

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Regeneration

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John 3:1-18

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Regeneration

John 3:1-18

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Regeneration

Two Big Questions:

Regeneration

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1. Are you regenerated (born again)?

Regeneration

Two Big Questions:

1. Are you regenerated (born again)?

2. Do you think and live like a regenerated person?

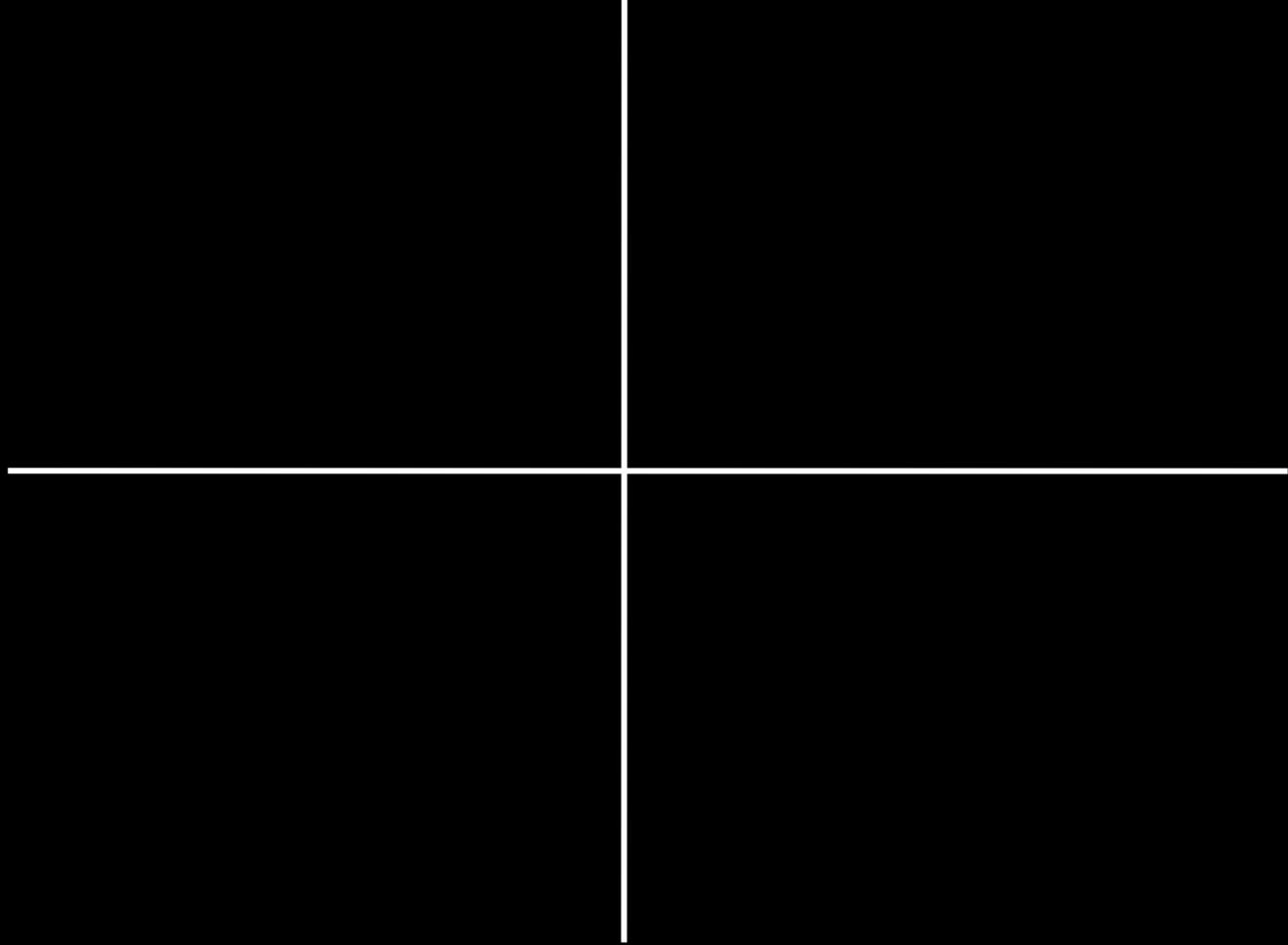
Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

No



Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

“Happy” Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Nicodemus / Saul

Religious Person

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Nicodemus / Saul

Religious Person

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Paul

Nicodemus / Saul

Born Again

Religious Person

Spiritual - "Christian"

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

Application

Are you spiritual (regenerated, born again)?

Do you live consistently with who you are?

What is the Holy Spirit asking you right now, right here to consider as your next step in your journey with Christ?

With all this said, how can you better listen to [or preach] a sermon?