

Mind of Christ

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (I Corinthians 2:14-16)

Here Paul asks, who has known the mind of the Lord! What natural man thinks God's thoughts? None. Unbelievers frequently want to correct believers, to argue about the truths we believe and follow. But when they contradict scriptural teaching, they are not arguing with us but with God – whose thoughts they do not understand. They are trying to instruct Him. Such is sheer folly.

As Christians, however, God instructs us. We are able to understand all things of His Word because we have the mind of Christ. During the days of His flesh when He was being "about my Father's business", our Lord often told us that of Himself He could do nothing. He did not conduct His earthly ministry as though He were some "loose cannon on the deck." Jesus told us that the Father showed and told Him exactly what to do and say in all situations (John 5:19-20, 8:26, 28, 12:49-50, 14:10, 17:8; cp. Deu. 18:18).

Christ knows the Father's thoughts, understands His wisdom. We have His mind (Greek = *nous*). This term is translated "understanding" in 14:14, 15, 19. Its usage here may best be understood from its use in Luke 24:45 of Jesus' revelation to the disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." It means that we are guided by His views as we are led by His Spirit.

The doctrine of illumination does not mean we can know and understand everything (Deut. 29:29), that we do not need human teachers (Eph. 4:11-12), or that study is not hard work (2 Tim. 2:15). It does mean that Scripture can be understood by every Christian who is diligent and obedient – "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God ... " (John 7:17).

To "have the mind of Christ" does not mean we are infallible and start playing God in the lives of other people. Nobody instructs God! (Paul quoted Isaiah 40:13.) To "have the mind of Christ" means to look at life from the Savior's point of view, having His values and desires in mind. It means to think God's thoughts and not think as the world thinks.

We must be very careful not to become spiritual dictators in the lives of God's people (II Cor. 1:24). The Corinthian Christians were so wrapped up in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit that they were neglecting the basic ministries of the Spirit. And in their emphasis on the Spirit, they were also neglecting the Father and the Son.

Finally, blessed are the balanced! And blessed are they who walk and share "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).