

ENCORE Discoveries

1. What is the key theme in today's verses? A _____ BODY
2. Based on Paul's background, did he have the "material" to "be somebody" in the eyes of the religious community? You may want to look at Acts 5:34; 21:39; 22:3; 26:5; and Philippians 3:4-10.
3. Based on today's Scripture passage, decide whether the following statement is true or false: Paul was a flamboyant preacher, more concerned about his "stage presence" and style of speaking than his message. Which verse(s) supports your answer?
4. Paul made a choice to "know" only one thing while presenting God's message. According to verses 2 and 4, what was that choice, and what was the result of that choice in verse 5?

LESSON #1 – God reveals His strength through my _____. (v. 3)

LESSON #2 – God reveals His wisdom through the _____ of the gospel. (1:21)

5. Does God give wisdom to just anyone, or does He put a "condition" on His wisdom? (v. 10-14)
6. Who has the Holy Spirit? (Rom. 8:9)
7. What is the difference between a "natural" person and a "spiritual" person? (v. 14,15)
8. What is the difference between a "mature" believer (v. 6) and a "carnal" believer (v. 3:1)?

LESSON #3 – God's wisdom can only be *truly* known by _____. (2:11)

LESSON #4 – God's wisdom can only be *fully understood* by _____ believers.

We can **apply** this (be "spiritual") and not just **know** this (have "God's wisdom" in hand) by rightly responding to these questions:

Will I...

consent to be weak so God can show His strength through me?

freely share the foolishness of the gospel so God's wisdom can be clearly seen?

seek to be a growing, abiding disciple of Christ so that I can fully understand and apply His wisdom to my life?

Theme: A Spiritual Body

Monday

Did you ever think of the gospel as a mystery? According to this week's verses, the wisdom of God was a hidden truth or mystery to mankind until God chose to reveal it. This truth was then revealed "for our glory." How does the gospel work "for my glory"?

Tuesday

Verse 9 is a verse that many people use to describe heaven, though it is actually speaking of God's wisdom. In your own words, this verse says, *If I love God, I will...*

Wednesday

Being wise is *knowing* God's wisdom. Being spiritual is *applying* God's wisdom. Then can I know God and His Word (be wise) and still not be spiritual?

If I am not growing in Christ (spiritual), then according to 3:1, what am I?

Thursday

Circle the "tools" God has given me to help me mature in Him. *Cross out* those that will hold me back from becoming a spiritual believer.

- His Comforter (Holy Spirit)
- God's wisdom (Bible)
- Television programs that exalt the flesh
- Raunchy Internet sites
- Those who "sharpen" me (godly friends)
- Lewd magazines and music
- Community of believers (church)
- Those who make me spiritually "dull" (worldly friends, Christian or not)
- Discipleship opportunities (Bible studies, fellowship, "sharpening" and encouraging one another, etc.)

Friday

Which of my talents, abilities, or external features am I proud of?

Isn't it time I yield them to God, asking Him to use them only for His glory?

Saturday

- God is strong; I am _____.
- God's wisdom is mankind's _____.
- If I am a _____, I can know God's wisdom.
- But only if I am a mature or _____ believer can I grasp the fullness of God's wisdom and will for me.

Lord, help me to admit my weakness so I can demonstrate your strength; help me embrace Your wisdom, foolish as it seems to others; and may I daily yield to You, grow in You, and mature into a spiritual believer so I can experience the fullness of life in You. Amen.