

CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN 1 CORINTHIANS

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To pick up the crucial points in the New Testament books is the way to uplift the standard of the truth. If we neglect this way, we will remain in a low standard of knowing and speaking the truth. We must pick up these high, crucial points, learn to get into them, learn to teach the saints, and learn to speak these things in our daily life.

Christ Being Ours

In 1 Corinthians 1:2 there is the expression *our Lord Jesus Christ, ... theirs and ours*. Christ as the all-inclusive One belongs to all believers. The crucial point of chapter 1 is that Christ is ours. We have been called by the faithful God into the fellowship of this Christ who is ours (v. 9). That Christ is ours means that Christ is our portion. We have been called into the fellowship, that is, into the participation, the enjoyment, of this portion, and this portion is God's power and God's wisdom to us (v. 24). In God's economy we have been put into this portion, and God has made this portion our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (v. 30).

The Depths of God

In chapter 1 Christ is our portion. In chapter 2 the crucial point is Christ as the depths of God (v. 10). This point needs the entire chapter 2 as a background. The Christ who is the depths of God is the very Christ in God's mystery (v. 7). The very Christ in God's mystery whom God dispenses to us is a kind of blessing and enjoyment, "which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart" (v. 9). Christ as the depths of God is Christ in God's mystery as the divine blessings dispensed to us, which eye has never seen and ear has never heard and which have never come up in man's heart. All this is for our glory (v. 7). To enjoy such a deep Christ is to enter into glory. This is altogether God's wisdom.

God's Building

In chapter 3 both the growth of the plant life and the transformation of the minerals are for God's building. The believers who have been regenerated in Christ with God's life are God's cultivated land with its plants, a farm in God's new creation to grow Christ, so that precious material may be produced for God's building (v. 9). Hence, we are not only God's farm but also God's building. Corporately, we as the church of God have Christ planted in us. Christ must also grow in us and out of us produce, in the sense of this chapter, not fruit but the precious materials of gold, silver, and precious stones for the building of God's habitation on earth (v. 12). Thus, the building of God, the house of God, the church, is the increase of Christ, the enlargement of Christ in His unlimitedness.