

We are wrapping up a look into I Corinthians: Paul's letters from Ephesus to the church begun in Aquila and Priscilla's home. Many lessons are taught in the two ancient scrolls preserved for us. When we began this look into Paul's thinking, the great apostle laid out a foundation for what he was to teach: I Corinthians 1:17-31. Here are some words that lay his premises:

1. *Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*
2. *He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption;<sup>31</sup> therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."*
3. *Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*

All Christian theology is Christology . . . Coming out of the dark ages western societies ordered and evolved education in categories as - sciences. The science of Christ truth was first or foremost - and though it now seems minor, remains a science - usually coupled with Philosophies, which have their source in Greek thinking. The science of Theology cannot be effective unless true to itself - seeking understanding of the truth of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth - the promised Christ. Jesus not only fulfills the Hebrew Law and prophets - Jesus the Christ came as/is God's self-revelation.

1. *We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (1Jo 5:20)*
2. *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (Joh 1:18)*
3. *I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. (Joh 12:46)*
4. *So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord; he who sent me is true, and him you do not know; but I know him, because I have come from him and he sent me. (Joh 7:28-29)*

God himself, of his self, by his self - out of his own nature (LOVE) -extended us grace and revealed his very nature in Christ. God was in Christ reconciling the breach and healing the need. God can be known ONLY by God through God. Knowing God is different from knowing about God.

1. Incarnation is at the heart of Christian truth
2. The God revealed in Jesus is/is must be consistent with the very reality and truth of God
3. The acts of Jesus and his teachings are true to and real to God - Behold your God!

There was an historic man named Jesus; who lived from the reign of Herod the Great until the Roman governorship of Pontius Pilot in Judea. This historic human existed in God before being human. He is God's answer to the completion of creation and the reconciliation of life. He is life.

*I want to be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (Phi 3:9 RSV)*

Christ taught us that "The Knowledge of God" was the key to ageless life: This is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. (Joh 17:3 RSV)

by Gary Allen Henecke DD