

THE NATURAL

MAN

BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS

Why 1 Corinthians 2:14 Does not Support Calvinism or Total Depravity

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1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

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.

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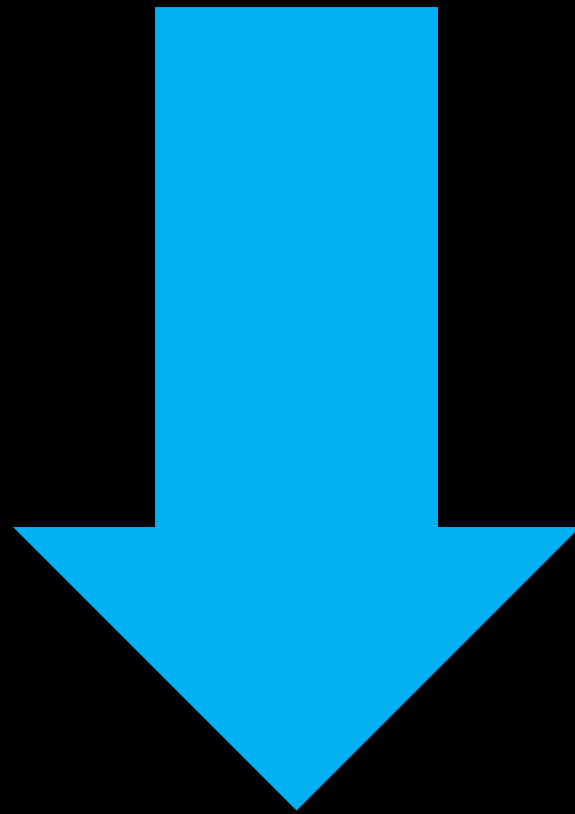
Admin notes

- Hermeneutics Worksheet
- Examine passages in light of context rather than examining a topic in light of a cherry-picked passage that contains words which are convenient to the position you held in the first place. What main idea is this author trying to get across to his audience in this section of scripture?
- *Don't debate philosophy.* Discuss passages of scripture.

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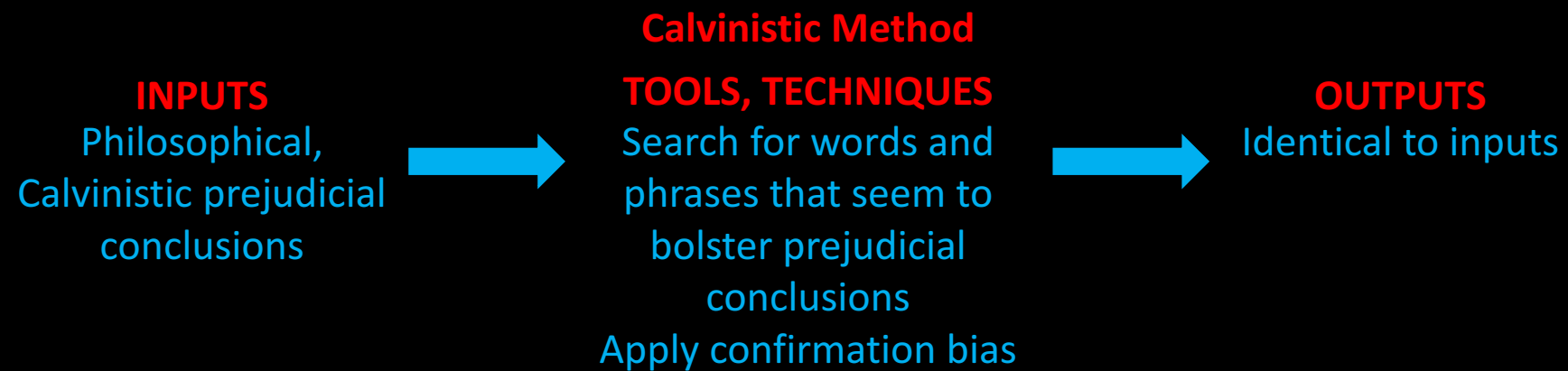
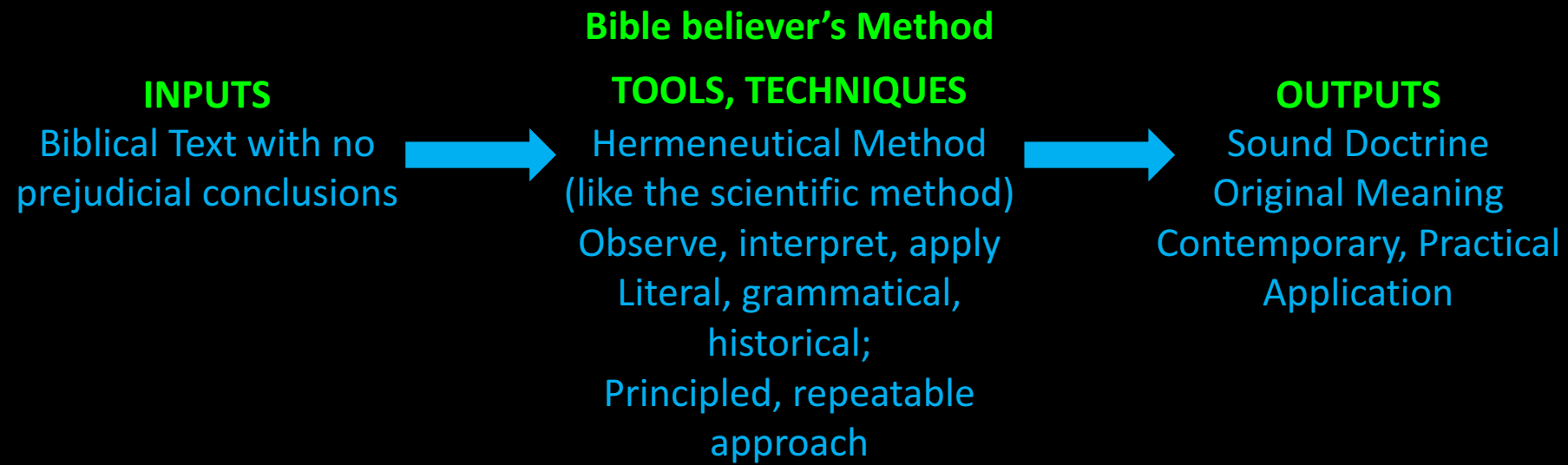
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Scroll down to “Interpretation Worksheet”



1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

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Two Catalysts for Paul writing to the Corinthians

What scripture says:

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

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.

What scripture is presumed to teach:

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NSV)

¹⁴ But the **unsaved** man **cannot** receive **Jesus** not the **Gospel** of God: for it is foolishness unto him: neither can he know *it*, because it is spiritually discerned.

Remember, we deal with what scripture actually SAYS, not what it is merely presumed to teach.

Given the context of the book, there is no reason whatsoever for Paul to break ranks with what he's telling the Corinthians to stop and make a non-sequitur comment about lost men not having the ability to receive the Gospel. That concept doesn't flow with anything Paul is saying and conveying to the Corinthians.

Target Audience

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (KJV)

- ¹ Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,
- ² Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Two Catalysts for Paul writing to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house of Chloe*, that there are contentions among you.

1 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV)

¹ Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

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1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (KJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

³ For ye are yet **carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not **carnal**, and walk as men?

⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not **carnal**?

1 Corinthians 9:11 (KJV)

¹¹ If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your **carnal** things?

2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV)

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not **carnal**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

4

Romans 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am **carnal**, sold under sin.

Romans 8:6 (KJV)

⁶ For to be **carnally** minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Romans 8:7 (KJV)

⁷ Because the **carnal** mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 15:27 (KJV)

²⁷ It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in **carnal** things.

2

Hebrews 7:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Who is made, not after the law of a **carnal** commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Hebrews 9:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ *Which stood* only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and **carnal** ordinances, imposed *on them* until the time of reformation.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (KJV)

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching *was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:*

5 That your *faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 (KJV)

⁶ Howbeit *we speak wisdom among them that are perfect*: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: *(not to the immature/carnal)*

⁷ But *we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

¹⁰ But *God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit*: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (KJV)

¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

¹³ Which things also we speak, ~~not in the words~~ which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

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.

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³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

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2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (KJV)

³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

⁴ In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What purpose would this serve if man was already totally depraved?

If total depravity were a reality, Satan wouldn't have to waste any time or effort with this because God would already have it covered.

John 1:9 (KJV)

⁹ *That* was the true Light, which lighteth **every man that cometh into the world.**

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 (KJV)

¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away **in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.**

¹⁵ But even unto this day, **when Moses is read,** the vail is upon their heart.

¹⁶ Nevertheless **when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.**

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 (KJV)

¹⁴ But **their minds were blinded** *[how?]*: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away **in the reading of the old testament**; which *vail* is done away in Christ.

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¹⁶ Nevertheless when it *[Israel]* shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

Romans 11:25 (KJV)

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness **in part** is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The vail being taken away is a **RESULT** of Israel turning to the Lord. Turning to the Lord is what triggers the removing of the veil.

1 Corinthians 2:6 (KJV)

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Wisdom that these carnal Christians could not receive, and were not able to bear:

- Saints Judging the world and angels – 1 Cor. 6:2-3
- Revelation of the mystery – Romans 16:26
- Mystery, hidden wisdom, not revealed – 1 Cor. 2:7

- Ministers are stewards of God's mysteries – 1 Cor. 4:1-2

- Mystery of Godliness: God Manifest in the Flesh - 1 Tim. 3:16

- Christ in you, the hope of glory - Col. 1:27
- Christ and the church: husbands and wives - Eph. 5:32; Eph. 3

- The restoration of Israel - Romans 11:25**
- Mystery Babylon the great - Rev. 17:5**
- The mystery of Iniquity - 2 Thess. 2:15**
- Harpazo/Rapture - 1 Cor. 15:52-55; 1 Th. 4:13-**

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- The One body of Christ – Eph. 3; 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12

- Spiritual Warfare and the Armor of God – Eph. 6
- The descension and ascension of Christ, spirits in prison – Eph. 4:8-11; 1 Pet. 3:19

- Prophecies of Christ's first and second coming
- Body, Soul, Spirit – 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12
- Daniel's 70 weeks
- Doctrines of Inspiration and Preservation
- The Tabernacle/Temple and Patterns of Heavenly things
- The Feasts of Israel and their past and future fulfillments
- Where the dead go
- Security and Assurance of the believer
- Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of Heaven
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit, deity, functions, relations, work
- Wisdom and Principles of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
- Results of sin and the fall
- Angelology and Demonology
- Satan
- Justification, Regeneration, Adoption, Sanctification

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4 (KJV)

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.

^{3:1} And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto **babes** in Christ.

² I have fed you with **milk, and not with meat**: for hitherto ye were **not able to bear it**, neither yet now are ye able.

³ For ye are yet **carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not **carnal**, and walk as men?

⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

Hebrews 5:10-14 (KJV)

¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and **hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing**.

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of **milk, and not of strong meat**.

¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* **unskilful** in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**.

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern** both good and evil.

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Hebrews 6:1 (KJV)

¹ Therefore **leaving the principles** of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

“**Natural**” appears 5 times in the book of Romans. Every use of the word is positive or neutral. None of them indicate unregeneracy in a person.

Natural appears in 1 Cor. 2:14, and it appears again in [1 Cor. 15:44 & 46](#). In 1 Cor. 15:44 & 46, the use of the word “**natural**” does not indicate

something that is opposite of a saved person, rather, on the contrary, it indicates something a saved person has, that is, a **natural** body.

It is the **natural** body of the saved person which is sown, that is buried. But it is their spiritual body that is resurrected.

Every saved person who is born of the spirit is carrying around a **natural** body which will one day die and be sown in a grave.

The “**natural**” man is not the opposite of a saved person. It is the basis of every person, including saved people. Christians who are saved and born of the Spirit, but have not yet renewed their mind have only the basis of their person. The **natural** man. The **carnal** man.

When a Christian has not yet become spiritual, or spiritually mature, they are in default mode. They are **natural**. The **natural** man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, and he can't until he renews his mind by daily application of faith, virtue, knowledge, obedience, behavior, temperance, godliness, kindness, charity – **by reason of USE!**

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

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.



1 Corinthians 2:14-15 (KJV)

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¹⁵ But he that is spiritual **judgeth** [v. 14 – “*discerned*”] all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

Notice that it says, “**He that is spiritual.**” It does not say, “**He that is saved,**” or “**He that is regenerated,**” or “**He that is in Christ.**” This is very obviously comparative language of a mature, spiritual Christian, with a natural, carnal, immature Christian.

1 Corinthians 2:1 (KJV)

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came **not with excellency of speech or of wisdom**, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 Corinthians 10:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* **bodily presence is weak**, and *his* **speech contemptible**.

2 Corinthians 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ But though *I* **be rude in speech**, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

Acts 19:21-22 (KJV)

²¹ After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, **when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia**, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

²² So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

Acts 20:1-3 (KJV)

¹ And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto *him* the disciples, and embraced *them*, and **departed for to go into Macedonia**.

² And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into **Greece**,

³ And *there* abode **three months**. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to **return through Macedonia**.

Acts 18:24-28 (KJV)

²⁴ And a certain Jew named **Apollos**, born at Alexandria, an **eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures**, came to Ephesus.

²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent in the spirit**, he spake and **taught diligently** the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

²⁶ And he began to **speak boldly in the synagogue**: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

²⁷ And when he was **disposed to pass into Achaia**, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Acts 19:1 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass, that, **while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus**: and finding certain disciples,

Acts 19:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ And this **continued by the space of two years**; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

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Acts 20:7-9 (KJV)

⁷ And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

⁸ And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

⁹ And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

Acts 18:1 (KJV)

¹ After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

Or it was written from Philippi, (20:4-6) which is the traditional location.

Saved People have to put on the new man and renew the mind:

1 Corinthians 3:3 (KJV)

³ For **ye are yet carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Ephesians 4:22-24 (KJV)

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;

²⁴ And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

² And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



BEGINNER

INTERMEDIATE

ADVANCED

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 (KJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto **ye were not able to bear it**, neither yet now are ye able.



**NATURAL
MAN
CANNOT
RECEIVE...**

1 Corinthians 2:6 (KJV)

⁶ Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are **perfect**: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

2 Peter 1:5-9 (KJV)

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

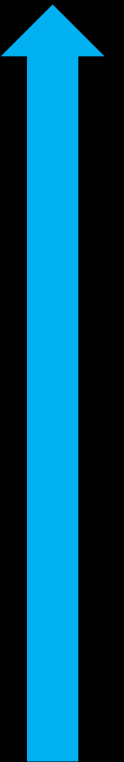
⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

FRUITFUL
↑
CHARITY
KINDNESS
GODLINESS
PATIENCE
TEMPERANCE
KNOWLEDGE
VIRTUE
FAITH



REVIEW

- What 1 Cor. 2:14 says vs. what Calvinist see.
- No passage says lost men cannot receive Christ.
- Paul is writing to Christians.
- 1 Corinthians is responding to reports from the house of Chloe and from things the Corinthians wrote.
- This is the most carnal church in the NT, by frequency of word usage.
- It is the only place in scripture where someone is called “carnal.”
- Paul spoke the advanced wisdom to those who were “perfect” or mature.
- 1 Cor. 2:14 is restated in 1 Cor. 3:1-3 and it is definitely referring to carnal saved people.
- Special effort is levied by the god of this world to blind people. This effort would not be necessary if the Calvinistic misuse and twist of 1 Cor. 2:14 were correct.
- The Advanced wisdom spoken among the mature would have included the deeper things in Paul’s other letters such as the “mysteries” that are revealed.
- Hebrews 5:10-14 mirrors exactly what Paul is saying in this portion of 1 Corinthians.
- The passage is about natural and spiritual, not lost and saved.
- The presence of Apollos at Corinth apparently gave opportunity for some carnal flare-ups.
- Saved people still have to renew their minds, and they aren’t ready for meat right away.

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Remember you can write in via email or facebook message. We love to hear from you and we answer everyone possible until we get side-tracked. Then you might want to write again as a reminder.

I look forward to hearing from you, and you seeing you here for our next video.

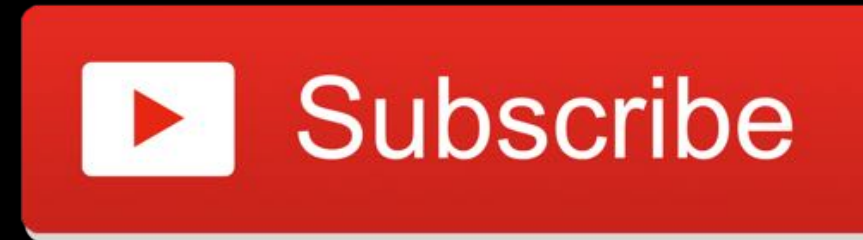
May the Lord Bless you, and Good day.

BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS

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