



Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord

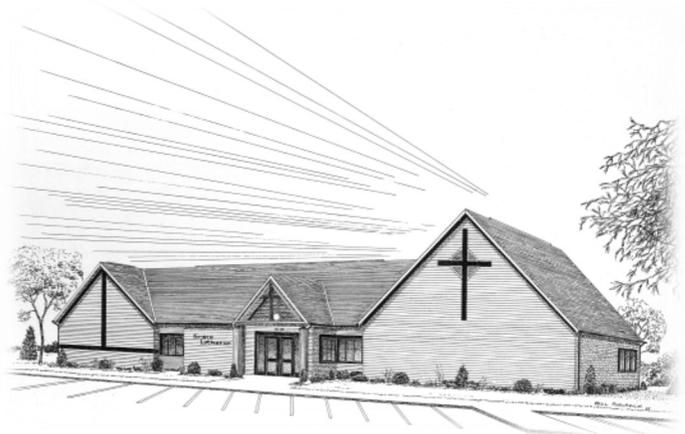
February 16, 2014

Pastor Daniel Naumann

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

TRUE WISDOM

COMES FROM GOD'S SPIRIT



On Tuesday, February 4 of this year, just a couple of weeks ago, there was a very publicized debate between Bill Nye, famous as the host of his TV show "Bill Nye the Science Guy," and a man named Ken Ham, a Bible-believing scientist who founded the Creation Museum in Kentucky. Perhaps some of you have heard me talk about this debate in Bible Class briefly. It was a debate to answer the question: "Is creation a viable model of origins in today's modern scientific era?" The debate was basically evolution vs. creation. It's a debate that's been going on for a long time. Although, if you ask Evolutionists they'll tell you that the debate ended about 150 years ago.

Well, in this particular debate each debater was given a half hour to present their view of how we came to be in this world, then each responded to the other, and finally they fielded questions from the audience back and forth. There were a few phrases that seemed to be a theme for Bill Nye who argued in favor of evolution. He continued to talk about evidence. He pointed to all the evidence that science can use to prove that the earth is hundreds of thousands, and even millions of years old. He pointed to the lack of hard evidence for creation. He found it hard to believe that people would really put their faith in a book that was written by many different people so long ago. The word he used over and over again was "disturbing." It's disturbing that anyone today would ignore all the evidence and put their faith in an ancient book. It can't prove anything, and it can't advance us in society. It's foolishness to the wisdom and evidence of our intelligent, scientific world. That's what science would tell us in today's modern age.

If you want to get upset quickly, just spend about 5 minutes reading through the comments under the video on YouTube. They're mostly in favor of

evolution, and they're really rather derogatory and ridiculing towards Christianity. They simply want to poke fun at Christians and at creation and at the Bible. It can be rather infuriating to watch people tear down Scripture and our faith, can't it? Yet, should it surprise us? Paul saw this coming, ridicule for what seems like foolishness to the unbeliever. In fact, not only did he see it coming for us today, but he himself had to face it. "But we do speak a wisdom to those who are ripe for it, a wisdom unknown to the world today and to its rulers who pass away." Paul knew firsthand the price for this wisdom from God. It put him in prison a number of times and got him beaten. And Paul certainly wasn't the only one. Of course, this same wisdom from God was what put Jesus on the cross as men rejected the Savior and this wisdom. "Yes, we tell about God's secret wisdom that was kept hidden but that God before the world began planned for our glory. None of those who rule this world knew it. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

You see, the world isn't going to recognize the wisdom of the Bible. Whether you're talking about the wisdom of creation as the origin of all things, or the wisdom of Scripture being God's Word and not man's word, or the wisdom of Jesus being true God and true man who came to die for us to take away sin. The world does not recognize such wisdom. And we shouldn't really expect to argue them into believing this wisdom either. This wisdom comes only from one person, and that's from the Holy Spirit. And it certainly isn't natural. In fact, it isn't only the unbelieving world standing alongside of Bill Nye the science guy who struggles with this mystery and this wisdom from God. We struggle with it too. "But it is as the Bible says: *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has thought of what God has prepared for those who love Him.* God has revealed it to us by

His Spirit. The Spirit finds out everything, even the deep things of God." You see, you know these things only because the Holy Spirit has revealed them to you. But apart from him you don't know or recognize this wisdom from God either. There's a longing in us too for evidence, for hard facts that prove what God says. There's a part of us too that thinks, "If only we could find Noah's ark, or the Ark of the Covenant, or if Jesus would just appear to me like he did to his disciples, then I'd know for certain!" There's a skeptic in us still that doubts and wonders if we can really trust this admittedly strange message of God-with-us. There's a part of us that argues with others about whether or not we can trust God's Word because we've had that very same argument with ourselves before. Paul wasn't just talking about the world when he said, "Who knows what a man thinks except his own spirit? In the same way only God's Spirit knows what God thinks." By nature, no one knows God, and no one knows his wisdom. We struggle with this too, and there are times when those doubts seem larger than the flicker of our faith in God's Word.

But it's those times that we need to hear again what Paul finished this section with: "Now we were not given the spirit of the world but the Spirit Who comes from God so that we know the good things God gave us. And we tell about them in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit as we explain the things of the Spirit to those who have the Spirit." You see, how can we be sure that this message about creation, about God's Word, about Jesus as our Savior can be trusted? We can be sure only because the Holy Spirit has made us sure. We can be sure because "from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." That's right, you are wise. Not wise by the world's standards and not wise by your sinful nature's standards. But you are wise by God's standards. You are wise because you have come to know the truth about your God—that he exists and that he loves you. You are wise because you know about the mystery that even though your sins deserved death and hell, your God saved you from that sin in a way that only God could do. You are wise because you know "God's secret

wisdom that was kept hidden but that God before the world began planned for our glory."

That's right, God chose you. He chose you to be with him in heaven forever. He chose you to reveal this message about Jesus and his love. He chose you for glory. He chose you for things that none of us could ever imagine. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has thought of what God has prepared for those who love Him. God has revealed it to us by His Spirit." It's this wisdom given to us by the Holy Spirit that makes us stop and marvel at the wonderful things God has done for us. He became one of us, he lived perfectly, he died willingly, he rose triumphantly, he lives eternally, he rules completely... all for you, dear chosen believer. God loves you, and he told you so by his Spirit. How has the Spirit given us this wisdom? He gave it to us through his Word, his living and active Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword. God's Word gives us something that we can find nowhere else on earth and it isn't evidence or



cold-hard facts that you can hold in your hands. It isn't the unanswerable argument or the perfect defense. It's love. God's Word gives to us a love that you can't find anywhere else in the world, because in God's Word we see the love of the perfectly loving God who stopped at nothing to make you his very

own.

The debate between Bill Nye and Ken Ham was long and sometimes frustrating. It lasted almost 3 hours. I don't know that I would necessarily recommend to anyone that they watch it unless they're really interested and want to, but I will share one thing that was encouraging. Ken Ham, more than once, gave a witness to his Savior. That's really the only thing that can ever change a heart. You can't argue an unbeliever into faith. You can't argue an evolutionist into creation. All you can do is share the very same love that you have from your God with others. When they taste that love too, they'll know why we believe in something so ridiculous, so unbelievable, so disturbing, so foolish as God's powerful Word. In that Word we find true wisdom. Amen.