

Tune into the Mind of Christ

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[0:00] My name is Dave. I'm one of the pastors here. Glad to bring God's word to you this morning as we have the opportunity to hear from the Lord. Both the good news that he has for us and how we can be saved, how we can be transformed by Jesus Christ. Let me pray for us as we prepare to hear God's word to us this morning. Father, I thank you that your words are so clear. Often it's we who have problems receiving them, Lord.

And your word isn't hard to hear, but it is so hard to take to heart. And I ask, Lord God, would you help us just a little bit more to take to heart the wisdom that you have for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to understand the good news that you have for us through the message that your Holy Spirit gives. Lord, would you guard me? I know I've, as even though I have prepared for this sermon, perhaps there are things that I've written that are not helpful, and if so, hold me back from saying them. Are there things that need to be said that I have not written? If so, Lord God, bring them to mind and let us receive all the good news you have for us and take it to heart and obey it. Amen. Well, let's start with a question. This is going to determine right from the outset whether this sermon crashes and burns or whether we have a good one or not. Who here listens? Let's do a show of hands. Who here listens to the radio? Who here listens to the radio? Okay, that's just, that's concerning. Okay, in your car, at home, somebody, not many. Okay, how about who here has ever listened to the radio? A show of hands. Okay, that makes me feel a little better. All right. I'm assuming you've probably listened to FM radio. Who here has listened to AM radio stations? Okay, fewer, but there's a few out there. Do we even get much in the way of AM radio here? Okay, we get, we do a little bit. Okay. Does anyone under the age of 20 know what we're talking about here? Or is this like, is this like digging up dinosaur bones to you? That's a maybe. Well, I want to, you to imagine for a moment that you're new to Squamish and maybe you've moved here from a place where all the radio stations were in the AM radio band. Maybe a very rural place, some barren landscape like northern Saskatchewan or something like that. And you move to Squamish. And one of your new Squamish friends tells you, hey, there's some great music on Mountain FM. Some, I heard some scoffing here. Okay, well, let's just say this is going to, there's music on there, Mountain FM, that's going to change your life. Okay, you've got to tune in, they tell you. So you are in your car and you've got one of those old school radios that's got a dial on it. That is, you turn the dial, it changes the station. It tunes into the right station. And so you're like, okay, I'm going to try.

To find that Mountain FM station. So you go through the entire AM radio band. You start from 540 and you go all the way up to 1700. And you are tuning and you're listening really, really carefully, really intently. The other drivers on the road are terrified of your driving as you're focusing on this radio. And you're doing your very best to make out that station through all the static.

Now, sometimes you hear snatches of radio from other AM stations from Vancouver, perhaps, but no Mountain FM. You, so you just try harder. You're driving and driving all over town. You're spending, for hours, you're doing loops all around town, trying to turn that AM radio dial. You're driving yourself crazy. And finally, you tell your friend, I have been through every station my radio has got, but no Mountain FM. And your friend is really confused because your friend's radio seems to pick up Mountain FM just fine. What's wrong with yours? Well, you can spend a lifetime turning the dial on an AM radio. You will never, ever pick up Mountain FM. You can upgrade your radio to the best equipment. You can make it as sensitive as possible. You can spend a lifetime turning your dial, trying to find that station. You never will, because only an FM radio can pick up Mountain FM. Now, imagine if you, imagine now putting your shoes, putting yourself in the shoes of a friend, trying to explain to a newcomer about FM radio. And let's suppose your friend that you're trying to explain this to is maybe a little thick-headed. Your friend just keeps upgrading their AM radio. They keep

buying new parts every week. They're spending hours a day tinkering with the radio. They're trying to tune into Mountain FM, always convinced. They've, they've just found, they finally found that new trick they read about online that is going to bring in the radio station that you talk about so much. Wouldn't that be frustrating watching that happen to your friend? Well, if you would find that a frustrating experience, to watch your friend just not getting it, just trying harder and harder and harder with an AM radio, you might catch a little glimpse into the Apostle Paul's frustration as he's writing his letters to the first century church of Corinth. In these letters that we call 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians, Paul is doing everything he can to explain what is on FM radio to a bunch of people who are stuck on AM radio.

[5 : 58] People who are genuine Christians, but they seem to be on a different radio band from Paul, who can't make sense of the way that Paul is leading, the way Paul is speaking, the way Paul is teaching, the way Paul is behaving, who are stuck in immaturity because of their AM radio listening habits. And Paul calls attention to this problem in 1 Corinthians chapter 2. I'm going to read what he writes. I'm going to start in chapter 2 verse 6 and then read all the way through chapter 3 verse 3.

I'd love for you to follow along in your Bibles and I'm going to assume for the rest of the sermon you'll have your Bibles open to these pages so that you can look down and see that what I'm referring to is right in the text. And if you're using one of the Bibles of Russia's handout, you'll find on page 953, on page 953, you'll find 1 Corinthians chapter 2. And again, I'll start in verse 6 and then read through chapter 3 verse 3. Here's what Paul writes.

None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the Spirit of that person which is in him. So also, no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Now, we've received not the Spirit of this world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom, but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

[8 : 33] The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh.

For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? This is God's Word to us this morning. Now at the end of chapter 2, verse 16, Paul makes one of the most outlandish, bold statements that he makes in this entire letter. He names the radio station he's tuned into, the mind of Christ. He and his fellow companions, his fellow evangelists who brought the good news to Corinth. He says that they are on Jesus' wavelength. He and his companions are in tune with the way that Jesus Christ thinks. And Paul is inviting the Corinthians to learn the mind of Christ too. It is not just something that the only an apostle can know, only super Christians can know. It's something for every Christian. And he's telling them now that they are Christians, they have a button on their radio that can switch from AM to FM. And he's urging them to find that button, to push it every time they start their cars, and to tune into the mind of Christ. Paul tells them three things that will help them learn the mind of Christ. The first thing that Paul tells them, the mind of Christ is a hidden broadcast for our good. The mind of Christ is a hidden, quote unquote, broadcast for our good. In verses 6 through 8, Paul says there's a contrast here between AM radio and FM radio. He says in verse 6, there is a wisdom of this age. It is being broadcast by the rulers of this age. All the cultural icons in society, even the devil himself, behind it all, are broadcasting on AM radio.

Now, if you listen to all the various voices in our culture, all the media voices in both traditional media, alternative media, some voices will be, some voices are extremely dangerous, other voices less so, some may be helpful to some degree, but one thing they all have in common, they're all in AM radio. Paul says in verse 6, that they all are doomed to pass away. AM radio is going obsolete. Not in real life, of course, to my knowledge, but metaphorically speaking, AM radio is going

obsolete. There is a day coming when nothing is going to be broadcast from that anymore. It will all be abolished. That whole mentality, that whole way of thinking, all the competing voices in our culture will be silenced when Christ returns. You do not want to be thinking on AM radio when Christ returns, when God puts an end to that radio band forever. You do not want to be swept away in judgment along with all the AM radio broadcasters. And if you think, well, how could it really be that bad? Look what their wisdom brought them to? They didn't recognize Jesus Christ when he came. They did not understand Jesus Christ at all when he came. When Jesus came and he spoke a message that they did not like and then backed it up with miracles so they couldn't just write him off as crazy, it radicalized them. In verse 8, Paul says, none of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. It does not matter how useful, it does not matter how wise your favorite secular politician or podcaster or media personality or therapist sounds to you.

even if they do have some nuggets of helpful thinking, in the end, they would have joined Pontius Pilate, they would have joined the Sanhedrin in crucifying Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

They do not want this man to reign over them. They would not have understood the way he was thinking. They would not have understood his FM radio.

[14:00] They would have killed the best thing about you. Your only glory. Your Lord. Your Savior. You need something more than what their AM radio stations can offer you.

Something that endures forever. Something that will never, ever go obsolete. And what could be more enduring than something that God decreed before the ages for our glory.

Paul says in verse 7, that he and his companions impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God. This is something that none of the rulers of this age understood, he says.

He says in verse 6, that among the mature, we impart this wisdom. What he's saying is that there is a hidden FM broadcast that only those with AM radio, that those with only AM radios, they will never pick up in a million years no matter how good their radios are, no matter how much they fiddle with their radios and upgrade their radios.

And you can call this a broadcast in a sense. A broadcast is something a radio station puts out, it goes out into the world, and is free of charge.

[15:24] God has made this available throughout the world. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. The whole earth is full of his glory. Like a radio broadcast, it is dispersed far and wide, free of charge, even for the worst of sinners to hear and to believe.

But like FM radio, the wisdom of God is a secret and hidden wisdom that only the mature can hear clearly, unmistakably, through all the static.

Those who have matured into the mind of Christ have their radios set to FM and tuned sharply into the right frequency. They are thinking on his wavelength.

They are seeing the world the way Jesus does. They are processing what they see and experience the way Jesus does. They are depending on God the Father the way Jesus does.

They have learned the heart of Christ for themselves and for the people around them and their lives are producing the fruit that comes from that. And in verse 7, Paul says that before the world began, it was always God's plan to choose you and me who are Christians.

[16:48] He chose us to receive this broadcast for our glory. To make us glorious like Jesus, his son.

To make you as much like Jesus Christ as any human being can possibly be. That is your destiny, oh Christian, and that is why God has given you the mind of Christ to make you someone you never imagined you could be.

That was always his plan. Just as the Old Testament prophets foretold, that was always his plan for you. And that is why Paul says in verse 9, what no eye has seen nor ear heard nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.

God has envisioned something better for you than you could ever imagine for yourself. Your dreams for yourself are way too small.

He has prepared something better than you could ever plan for yourself and that something is only found on FM radio. it's the mind of Christ. The best gift that God could ever give to you is the very mind of his beloved son, Jesus Christ.

[18:09] Yes, the mind of Christ is a hidden broadcast for our good. And the second thing that Paul wants the Corinthians to understand, the mind of Christ is freely broadcast through the Holy Spirit.

The mind of Christ is freely broadcast through the Holy Spirit. In verse 10, Paul says this directly. These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

Now, why is it that we can't just figure out all these things for ourselves? Why do we need the Holy Spirit? Why do we need FM radio at all?

Isn't AM radio good enough? Well, Paul is prepared to answer that objection if people think, well, I can figure out how to be a good person, how to be the kind of person that pleases and honors God, to be the kind of person God made me to be.

I can figure that out on my own. I've got my own voices I listen to. The answer, Paul says, why you cannot figure that out on your own and you cannot get there on your own is that the Holy Spirit can do something that you can never do, something that no human being you know can ever do, something that I certainly cannot do, something that none of the rulers of this age can do, no matter how good their AM stations are and no matter how successful their broadcasts are.

[19:33] He says in verse 10, the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. And then in verse 11, Paul uses an analogy, something we're familiar with with our own minds.

He says, for who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person which is in him. Now as a counselor, whenever I'm sitting across from someone, I feel this very keenly, this shortcoming in myself.

I can never truly know what the person across from me is thinking and feeling, what's going on deep inside of them in the very depths of their heart and mind and soul.

Only their own spirit knows, if at all. Maybe their own spirit doesn't even know. But if anyone knows, only their own spirit knows. I'm not a mind reader.

And I apologize to my future wife for saying this, but I can't know your mind unless you tell me. So also, no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

[20:44] The Holy Spirit is the only person, is the only one, and the only way to know the mind of Christ. Jesus Christ cannot be understood as a person unless the Holy Spirit reveals him to you.

He will not make sense. You can't understand the way the Son of God desires and feels and thinks and perceives. You cannot enter his head space.

You cannot understand his mentality unless you have the Holy Spirit who knows the mind of God.

Now for the last few years here at Squamish Baptist, we've seen more and more people show up at our church inquiring about what it means to be a Christian.

Sensing correctly that something has gone wrong with the world. Feeling unsettled. Seeing that our culture does not have the answer. Seeing that all the promises our culture and all the rulers of this age have given them, they're not coming true.

They're not paying off. Perhaps that's you this morning. Maybe you've spent a lifetime tuned into AM radio and now you are sensing that there is something wrong with it.

[22:07] something that doesn't add up. Something that is missing. You've been in tune with the spirit of the world, with the mentality and mindset of the world around us and it's never felt more obsolete.

It's never felt more passing away than it does right now because things are changing so fast in our world. All the promises, all the things you were told growing up from our culture by the way the world works, they're going obsolete so fast and the things you're learning right now and being told right now, they're going to go obsolete even faster.

It's just what God has told us is going to happen because things are changing fast and whatever comes next is something that AM radio will do no good for you because by then there will be new AM radio stations telling you new things that will go obsolete even faster.

The spirit of the world cannot help you but Paul says in verse 12 now, we've received not the spirit of the world but the spirit who is from God that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Paul is telling the Corinthians that the Holy Spirit who is sent to us by God who knows the mind of God he is someone whom Paul and his companions have received.

[23:30] They have received him. They have received the spirit and he is teaching them the secret and hidden wisdom of God which can save them.

When Paul was born again when he was regenerated he received the spirit and the scales fell from his eyes.

it's like God installed an FM button on his radio for the first time and God gave his spirit so that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

I love that statement freely given. Do you see that God wants to give you this wisdom? His heart is to give you the mind of Christ.

Sometimes we think that the problem is that just God isn't motivated enough. We want it but he doesn't seem motivated. He seems like a stingy giver. That is not true. He is eager to give.

[24 : 40] He is generous to give. He broadcasts the mind of Christ for free. It costs you nothing. You do not have to research.

You do not have to earn it. You just have to receive it. And how do you receive it? James 1 verse 5 tells you if any of you lacks wisdom if any of you lacks this wisdom let him ask God who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given him.

You ask. God freely and generously gives the mind of Christ. He freely gives the FM button that gives you access to the mind of Christ.

In verse 13 Paul calls such a person who has that FM button he calls that person spiritual. Now let's not confuse what Paul means here with the idea of being spiritual in our culture.

I know it's very common for people to say oh I'm spiritual but not religious. That's not what Paul is talking about at all. Because what people usually mean by that is they have some sort of ambiguous sense of spiritual forces around that they want to be in tune with but they don't want kind of any accountability or real community about it.

[26 : 01] They just kind of want to just float around I guess. But that's not what it means to be spiritual with a capital S. I wish there were a capital S on this spiritual because to be spiritual is to have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you so that you now have access to words taught by the Spirit to Spirit given truths that only those with the Holy Spirit are able to understand are able to receive.

This is the only way to wisdom. So do what James 1 verse 5 says. I urge you to do it if you lack wisdom if you lack that FM radio button if you do not have the mind of Christ if you have not do not know and understand what it means to be a Christian ask God Lord give me that FM radio button. I want to see things through the eyes of Christ. Ask him to give you his Holy Spirit so that you can tune in so that your mind can start being reshaped into the mindset and mentality of Jesus Christ because apart from him you can do nothing.

Yes the mind of Christ is freely broadcast through the Holy Spirit and then the third thing that Paul wants the Corinthians to understand the mind of Christ is the only way to wisdom.

The mind of Christ is the only way to wisdom. Paul has suggested this very thing several times so far in chapter 2 but now in verse 14 he comes back again and he says it now explicitly.

[27 : 45] He talks about what he calls the natural person. It's a word a little tough to translate but what he means by that is anyone who's just on their own without the Holy Spirit.

Someone who doesn't have the Holy Spirit at work in their life connecting them to the mind of Christ. Someone who only has an AM button on his radio and Paul says in verse 14 the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God for they are folly to him and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural person reads the Bible can read it cover to cover perhaps maybe find it interesting maybe even find a few things he likes in it but he doesn't grasp the deep wisdom of it.

To him it's like sifting through river silt and sediment and in all that muck finding a few gold nuggets here and there. That's how the someone without the mind of Christ reads the Bible at best and then some of them read it and say it's all muck and mud there's nothing good here.

He doesn't have eyes to see that in fact every word is gold everything because when you're tuned into FM radio the Bible comes alive with wisdom the unfolding of his word gives light the law of his mouth is better than thousands of gold and silver pieces we no longer stand in judgment over God's word when we have the mind of Christ instead now we let it stand in judgment over us and then in verse 15 Paul adds the spiritual person judges all things but is himself to be judged by no one that is quite the statement what Paul is saying he's not saying hey nobody can judge me get off my back you know I'm above it all I answer to no one no what he's saying is this when we are in an

[29 : 54] FM radio state of mind when we are in the state of mind where we have the mentality of Christ we are what the Bible calls spirit led spirit filled walking by the spirit keeping in step with the spirit when we are tuned in we have the wisdom that we need to judge right and wrong to judge good and bad and the problem is if you do not have that FM radio you cannot tune in no one on AM radio is in a position to judge that it's like somebody on AM radio criticizing Mountain FM and the

quality of the station and the quality of the music being played you don't even understand you don't even understand what's being played you can't judge it that's why Paul can write so confidently to the Corinthians because boy if you read the letter you learn pretty fast in 1st and 2nd Corinthians the Corinthians are more than happy to judge Paul they're more than happy to decide that

Paul does not measure up to their idea of what an apostle should be they criticize his message they criticize his messenger they criticize how he delivers it many of them find him lacking as a preacher but he's explaining in chapters 1 and 2 Paul is explaining to them why he doesn't preach the way they expect why he intentionally makes himself a less impressive preacher Paul has good judgment about these matters and he is in a place to judge and he's saying you're not in a place to instruct me and my companions about how to preach why because he says in verse 16 we have the mind of Christ we're tuned into FM radio you've still got an AM radio mentality and there's no wisdom there you don't get the way Jesus thinks there's no wisdom there that can save you from the power of sin and the power of shame and the power of suffering and the power of death only the wisdom of God can do that without the mind of Christ you don't have the equipment to understand the Christian way of life and assess how it ought to be lived that's why in Romans 12 verse 2 Paul tells us do not be conformed to this world that's the wisdom of this world and the spirit of this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect he's saying here that the only way to understand God's law the only way to really understand his expectations the only way to understand what God wants what you're meant by your creator to do to get his way of life and to keep in step with his spirit the only way to really get this wisdom is to be transformed by the renewal of your mind to have your mind conformed to the mind of Christ apart from perfect for you to do you can't yes the mind of Christ is the only way to wisdom so then tune into the mind of Christ tune into the mind of Christ now I'm saying this I've been speaking quite a bit to those who have not yet believed in Christ who have not received the spirit but Paul is saying this also to those of us who have believed who have received the spirit because it is possible to be a Christian and yet have your radio on the AM band in fact have your radio on the AM band a lot of the time to be tuning your mind to AM radio stations and that's where Paul assesses Paul then makes his judgment as someone who has the mind of Christ he then judges where the Corinthians are at he says in chapter but I brothers notice he calls them brothers they're real genuine brothers in Christ part of the family of God and he says I brothers could not address you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh as infants in Christ I fed you with milk not solid food for you were not ready for it and even now you are not ready for you are still of the!

[34:39] for while there is jealousy and strife among you are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way Paul was already described before the natural person that's someone who doesn't have the Holy Spirit at all there is no FM button at all on that person's radio he's described the spiritual person who does have an FM button who is using it who is tuned in and now he tells the Corinthians that he can't talk to them like they're the spiritual person he can't address them that way he can't communicate that way to them he has to talk to them as he calls people of the flesh as people who have an FM radio button but they just aren't using it he says that AM radio they've been tuned in and it is stunting their growth their infants in Christ they should have grown up by now but they're still a bunch of babies still of the flesh for years and years not growing up at some point when your 10 year old kid is still in diapers you've got to call them out on it this should remind us of

Romans chapter 7 BK has been preaching on that the last few months the sense that we still have the flesh we still have this AM radio button it's almost like every morning you get in your car you start your car and the radio jumps right back to AM again doesn't it it's almost like it defaults there and the Corinthians the Corinthians are just letting it sit there they aren't hitting the FM button they aren't getting back to the mind of Christ they're stuck on AM and Paul calls that the flesh AM radio is the flesh FM radio is the spirit Romans 7 describes the Christian life tuned into AM radio the frustration the exasperation the torn mind the grief the conflict internally the bad behavior that grieves us that comes from our own selves and Paul in Romans 8 is going to describe the Christian life tuned into

FM radio on AM radio Paul says in verse 3 there is jealousy and strife among you along with a whole host of other things BK read this morning about all the works of the flesh all the horrible things that come out even in Christians even in churches when we're all tuned into AM radio on FM radio there's the fruit of the spirit love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness

gentleness self control against such things there is no law when you are tuned in FM radio you just do the law of the Lord you do it your heart is to do it on FM radio the Holy Spirit teaches us the mind of Christ the wisdom from above this is how real change happens in our lives in our families in our church in our community not by talking to people with

AM radio and beating them over the head with more rules and commandments and expectations but by showing them how to tune in to FM radio so they can do the law of the Lord with a sincere heart and love him in James 3 verses 17 through 18 he says the wisdom from above is first pure then peaceable gentle open to reason full of mercy and good fruits impartial and sincere what if our marriages were characterized by that what if our relationships with our children what if our relationships with one another in the church looked like that felt like that he says a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace that is FM radio living that is a spirit led spirit filled way of life that's the mentality the mindset the very mind of Christ that's what it looks like do you want that for yourself do you do you want to tune into the mind of

Christ if so come back next week that's the topic for next week we'll talk about how if we have received this FM button if we have been born again how can we learn to hit that FM button how can we access the FM radio that God has given us how can we hear this hidden broadcast for our good how can we receive what the Holy Spirit has freely given to us from God how can we find the only way of wisdom we're going to learn together how to tune into the mind of!

[39:55] we'll talk next week let me pray father we know that we ourselves cannot do this we cannot install an FM button on our own radios that is something only you can do and I pray that if there are people here who do not have that who do not have your spirit oh Lord they may cry out to you and say Lord give me this wisdom from above I cannot create it myself I need your spirit I need to receive it I need your help and Lord would you hear them and answer their prayer with generosity without reproach with joy you have said come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest you said that your yoke is easy and your burden is light that's what it means to walk by the spirit and we ask that you would grant that to us for those of us who are believers

Lord many of us we've been longing for a lot of other things our idea of the good life our idea of eternal life is different from yours sometimes but for you the good life is the mind of Christ living this way forever and ever and ever and would you grant that to us so we may know the way of peace so that we may know the glory that belongs to Christ so that the world may see that he is exalted forever that he is the king of kings the lord of lords the lord of glory this is all for his sake Lord that he would be recognized as the one for whom you made this whole world grant to us his mind! Thank you.