

Elder Bobby Willis



I Corinthians 2:14, **“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.”**

To better understand this verse written by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church, we must first know the difference from a natural man and a spiritual man. The natural man is a reference to one who has NOT been born again of the spirit of God. In this condition, a natural man doesn't know or care about the blessed things of God. A spiritual man, on the other hand, is one who HAS been born of the spirit of God and has been blessed to know his redeemer and rejoices in the knowledge which the Lord has been placed in his heart by the new birth. Paul, in the Roman letter - 8:7, says **“the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”** We need to know from this verse that the carnal mind is the same condition being referred to as the natural man. One that is carnal is worldly and of the flesh, and has not the capabilities to discern (understand) the wonderful blessings and magnitude of our God. Paul had already laid the premise of how the gospel would be received by those that perish (consumed by their own self-righteousness) in I Corinthians 1:18. Paul stated plainly the following: **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”** Those who are in a state of perishing in their own righteousness and who are dead in sin, are the same as those who are in a carnal state or the condition of a natural man. Likewise, they cannot discern the Spirit of God as it is foolishness to him. Born again Children of God can draw much comfort from Colossians 1:9 were Paul stated, **“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;...”** This is the blessed spirit as it is comes by God and leads us in “paths of righteousness for His name's sake (Psalm 23:3). *Think about it!*

