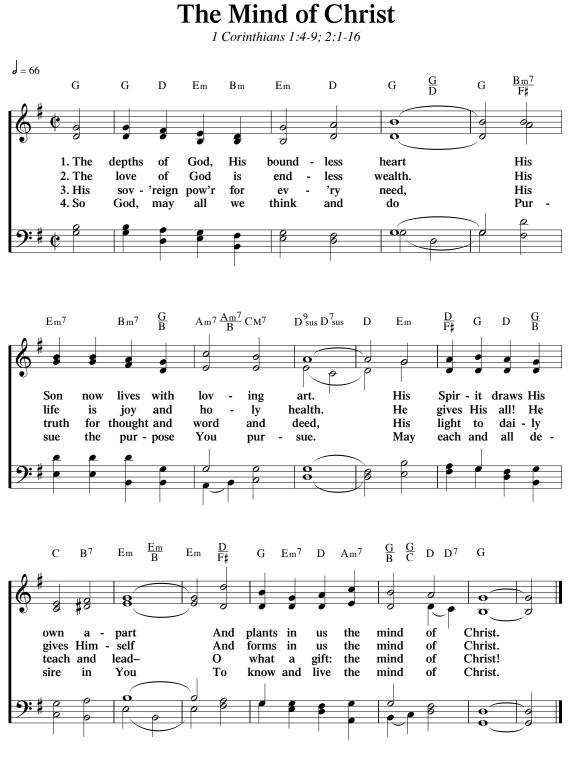
(Topics and Lead-in Below)



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois; arr. by Ken Bible

OLD 100TH L.M.

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TOPICS: God's Presence; Holiness; Holy Spirit; Living in Christ; Trinity

LEAD-IN: I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge...Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed...We have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 7; 2:16, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Gaining the Mind of Christ

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)

Sitting down to read the Bible, I've asked myself: What am I looking for? What good do I want this to do me?

I've found that when Bible reading is most helpful, it is because it brings me the mind of Christ. It doesn't always bring specific direction on a certain question. And I don't suddenly know all Christ knows or totally think like Him. But in some partial way, I begin to get His view of my life, of my problems, of other people, and of God himself.

Sometimes I get a new picture of His love and faithfulness. Sometimes, His comfort. Sometimes, a challenge or a new heart focus. That's why I'm drawn to the Bible--not driven to it, but drawn to it. When I neglect looking to God, I can tell the difference in myself. Before long my perspective slips; I forget, and my attitudes get off center.

Then I remember how God has helped me through His Word. And as He helps me again, my hunger for that help gets stronger and stronger. Gaining some measure of Christ's viewpoint is so uplifting, both in mind and in heart.

And that's the most exciting part. His Spirit doesn't just give us information. He actually molds the way we think and feel and look at things, from the inside. His wisdom is more than what we know. It is living wisdom. It is who we are. And like all His best blessings, that living wisdom is available if we just pray to Him and ask for it.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5, NIV)

God, as I read, I seek You. Today, this morning, give me the light I need by the light of Your face. Give me Your mind, Lord Jesus.

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