GREATER THAN: WEEK 2

WARM-UP: How did you react to the resignation of Andrew Thorburn as CEO of Essendon? What did it say about being a Christian in today's world? Did it make you concerned?

https://www.theage.com.au/sport/afl/it-seems-that-faith-is-not-only-unacceptable-but-now-must-be-cancelled-20221007-p5bnxg.html

READ 1 Corinthians 2

Verses 1-6

Remember the type of city Corinth was – proud of its
- intellect e.g. Schools, architectural innovations, centre of intellectual debate
- idolatries

  e.g. Venus/ Aphrodite – goddess of love & fertility
  the Emperor
  Apollo – god of ..everything!
  Demeter – goddess of the harvest
  Kore – goddess of agriculture, vegetation, grain
  Hera – goddess of marriage
  Poseidon – god of the sea
  Asklepios- god of medicine
- immoralities
- busy commerce
- bustling life.

Q: Why did Paul decide to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified? Why didn't he use the great learning that he had in the same way he spoke at Athens? Wouldn't that have been more convincing to the people of Corinth?

Q: In verse 6, Paul talks about the wisdom of this world. What is the 'wisdom' of our world today? What are the things that this world values? (personal success, possessions, enjoyment, looking after self)

Mark Sayer said "Secularism is an attempt to create a system for human flourishing in which God is absent"

Q: Think back to some of the previous great world views (e.g. Greek or Roman philosophy) or "isms" e.g. Communism, Colonialism – what ultimately happened to them?

Verses 7-16

There is a big contrast between the world's wisdom and God's wisdom.

Q: How does Paul describe the wisdom of God? Verses 7 to 9.

Q: If this is such a mystery, how can we understand it? Read verses 10 to 12 and John 14:16-17.

Q: If this wisdom is hidden (verse 14), how can we expect non-Christians to understand it? Read John 16:8. How then should we be praying for people who do not know God?

Discussion
How can we practically live according to the Spirit and not according to the wisdom of this world? What will that mean for you?