

# Being the Church in an Unbelieving World

## FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM... OF GOD AND OF MEN

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:17 – 2:5

INTRO: Last week we saw Paul's plea to the believers in the church at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Last Monday night our Building Team met. – acknowledge many want to hear more

Bring Team to front

Team perfectly joined together; problem has been – price tag too high

Team has prayed much and worked hard – at last Monday night, God showed us a path forward at a price church can afford. In fact – 3 ways forward.

Team wants the mind of Christ on this, same mind, same judgment – agreed to pray for 3 wks to that end. As we closed the meeting praying for God to bring us to the mind of Christ and make us unanimous on which path forward, the Lord put on my mind to ask whole church to join us in that prayer.

COME DOWN – EXTEND HAND OF BLESSING

Prayer

**John MacArthur describes this passage as one of special importance because it gives a contrast between the foolishness of men, which they think is wisdom and the wisdom of God which, lost men think is foolishness.**

1 Corinthians 1:17-25 NKJV 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."* 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the

power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

In our examination we start in verse 17 where we left off last week.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with **wisdom of words**, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

**Sophia logos - Word of wisdom - Paul makes clear he is speaking of human wisdom, human philosophy, human understanding.**

18 For the **message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The gospel is not just a mere invitation to come to God, or to follow Jesus, or to turn your problems over to God, or to prosperity in this world.

**Logos stauros - Word of the cross - the gospel**

- **Jesus, the Son of God, died for our sins.**
- **He rose from the dead.**
- **He offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who trust in Him.**

**The cross is the pivotal point of all history.**

In **Genesis 3:15**, God foretold both Jesus' suffering and victory over Satan.

In **Exodus**, the blood of Passover Lamb; John the Baptist, "Behold! The Lamb..."

In **Leviticus**, the Day of Atonement foreshadowed atonement Jesus on the cross.

In **Numbers** the brazen serpent was lifted up; **John 3:14** "And as Moses lifted up..."

In **Deuteronomy**, law was given as a schoolmaster to show us our need for Christ.

The **Books of History**, inability of man to obey God w/o new covenant of grace begun at Calvary.

The **Books of Poetry**, often spoke both of Christ's death and of His reign as eternal Messiah and King.

The **Prophets** joined the poets in the proclamation of both His coming and His redemptive work.

Isaiah 1:18 NKJV "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Isaiah 53 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The **Gospels** declared Christ's coming and His sacrificial death upon the cross.

**Acts** opens with the risen Christ telling His followers to proclaim the message of the cross by being witnesses of Him from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

The **Letters** explain the message of the cross and help believers know how to live.

**Revelation** shows us the future when all who have believed the message of the cross are gathered to live with God forever and forever!

18 For the **message of the cross** is **foolishness** to those who are **perishing**, but to us who **are being saved** it is the **power of God**.

foolishness – moria – moron or moronic

those who are perishing – those losing out, those being destroyed, never complete

are being saved – saved at age 8; being saved currently; will be saved in years and ages to come

the power of God – dunamus – dynamite of God

So Paul says in chapter 2

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I **determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were **not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should **not be in the wisdom of men** but in the **power of God**.

And it still is – **Center of Hope salvations in 2019 – 229** (Includes Medical Clinic, Benevolence Center, and A Sheltering Tree)

**Do you want to experience the power of God?**

- **Believe the message of the cross – Trust Jesus!**
- **Spread the message of the cross – Share the gospel!**

At the Center of Hope or in Brazil or on another of our gospel sharing mission trips.