

Why the World Mocks Christians, Part 1 - 1 Corinthians 1:18 – March 2nd, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series I've titled, "Why the World Mocks Christians."
- While I'm keenly aware this title seems somewhat antagonistic I'm nonetheless compelled to address this grievous and disheartening topic.
- This because, we must understand that scoffers will become more ridiculing of Christians and Christianity in the last hour of human history.

2 Peter 3:3-4 NIV First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. (4) They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

- The fact of the matter is, not only will they mock Christians who believe in and are watch for the rapture they'll mock Jesus Christ Himself.
- I believe this explains why it is that scripture is replete with passages warning and even encouraging Christians in the face of such ridicule.
- The question isn't will Christians be mocked and ridiculed rather it's why are Christians mocked and ridiculed. Enter First Corinthians one.

- The Apostle Paul is about to show us, by the Holy Spirit, how we can navigate in a world that sees Christians as being ignorant and foolish.
- However, in order for him to accomplish this, it's incumbent upon him to communicate the paradoxical irony, so we are able to understand.
- Let me explain, the world views Christianity as foolish and Christian's as ignorant because we believe in a Savior Who didn't save Himself.

- In other words, this God Who's all powerful must be foolish to not use this power to save Himself from the Roman crucifixion on the cross.
- Furthermore, for one to actually believe in this nonsense makes them bigger fools than the God they purport to put their faith and trust in.
- Herein lie both the paradox and the irony such that, the opposite is true, which is why God's wisdom and power is foolish weakness to man.

1. They are perishing (Verse 18)

(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.

- v18 Paul says that 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.
- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that a man being crucified on a cross to bring salvation is foolish to man.
- It's for this reason man rejects and even ridicules Christianity and the Christians who believe it, which ironically proves they're going to hell.

Henry Morris of this writes; "Those who regard Christianity as foolishness, rejecting and perhaps even ridiculing God's Word, thereby prove to others that they are perishing in sin, on their way to hell."

- By the way, this ridiculing of Christians under the banner of thinking Christianity is foolish, is not new. It's been happening for 2,000 years.
- It's evidenced by the "Alexamenos Graffito, also known as the graffito blasfemo, which is an inscription carved in plaster on a wall in Rome.
- According to Wikipedia, it's displayed in a museum and alleged to be among the earliest known pictorial representations of the Crucifixion.

"The image depicts a human-like figure [attached to a cross](#) and possessing the head of a [donkey](#). In the top right of the image is what has been interpreted as either the Greek letter [upsilon](#) or a [tau cross](#).^[1] To the left of the image is a young man, apparently intended to represent Alexamenos,^[3] a Roman soldier/guard, raising one hand in a gesture possibly suggesting worship.^{[4][5]} ...The inscription is accepted by authoritative sources ...to be a mocking depiction of a [Christian](#) in the act of worship. The donkey's head and crucifixion would both have been considered insulting depictions by contemporary Roman society. Crucifixion continued to be used as an execution method for the worst criminals until its abolition by the emperor [Constantine](#) in the 4th century, and the impact of seeing a figure on a cross is comparable to the impact today of portraying a man with a hangman's noose around his neck or seated in an electric chair.^[19]"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexamenos_graffito

- Fast-forward almost 2,000 years to the present day and nothing is new under the sun as evidenced by what we see in popular music today.
- I'll spare you the more blasphemous and grievous album covers from some of today's most famous music artists, as it's too evil to show.
- However, I do deem it necessary to share a little bit about two of these demon-possessed musicians who've sold their souls to the Devil.

- The first one is Kanye West's blasphemous album cover depicting him self as being crucified on a cross as a mockery of Christ' crucifixion.
- This is actually one of many, not just from Kanye West, but others like Brittany Spears who also depicts herself sexually nailed to a cross.
- It was her album titled, "Piece of Me," in which she's covered only by a cloth and her hair, an album so sexual it is considered pornography.

- I'll only show you one more of these, but before I do, I want to give you an opportunity to either turn away, or close your eyes before hand.
- Hang in there with me for just a bit longer because I think you'll understand where I'm going with all of this at the conclusion of my sermon.
- Before I put it on the screen, I'll give you the name and title of the scene from their music video, it's Nine Inch Nails music video "Closer."

- Actually, some of the versions of the single are titled, "Closer to God," which is ironic, given the scene pictured here from their music video.
- For those who are turning away and not seeing this I'll simply say that they have a monkey on a cross being crucified in what looks like hell.
- Allow me one last comment before I change the slide, don't you also find it sort of ironic that the name of this group is "Nine Inch Nails?"

- The reason I point this out is it's widely believed the length of the nails, which were actually spikes, used in the crucifixion were nine inches.
- It's at this juncture that I'll bring it to a close, but might I kindly ask that you give me your undivided attention for just a couple more minutes.
- Here's why, don't you find it rather peculiar that the world only mocks and blasphemes Jesus Christ and not other gods of other religions?

- I would suggest the very fact that Jesus Christ is mocked, validates and authenticates that He is God the Son, the only way, truth and life.
- We've talked about this in previous studies of God's Word, how that by way of illustration, you'll never see a counterfeit eighty-dollar bill.
- In other words, they counterfeit and mock Christians because the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are already perishing.