



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5: ...But Only God Makes Things Grow

*What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.
(1 Corinthians 3:5-9)*

Verse 23: ...we preach Christ crucified:

- *a stumbling block to Jews (They wanted a Political Powerhouse King)*
- *and foolishness to Gentiles (gods do not lower themselves to human affairs)*

Why was Jesus Christ crucified a stumbling block to the Jews?

In what ways was the cross of Christ foolishness to the Gentiles?

Verse 24: ...but to those whom God has called...

Χριστὸν (Christ)

δύναμιν θεοῦ (Power of God)

καὶ σοφίαν θεοῦ (Wisdom of God)

Verse 30: Because we are in CHRIST, we boast of:

1. HIM as our **wisdom** from God: Our plans do not save us. But He saves us with His plan.
2. HIM as our **righteousness** from GOD: We had/have no righteousness of our own. He makes us righteous.
3. HIM as our **sanctification** from GOD: We could not make ourselves holy for HIM, but JESUS could and did (and does).
4. HIM as our **redemption** from GOD: We could not buy ourselves free from slavery to sin, but JESUS could and did.

It's not about eloquence!

Of how many popular ministries might the same verdict be given! Souls are not saved, but the preaching is very brilliant. Thousands are attracted and operated on by the rhetorician's art, but what if he should have to say of his admirers, "I lose them all, but the sermons were very brilliant!" (Charles Spurgeon)

Applications:

1. Turn from sin and put your faith in Jesus.
2. Realize this is not about you! This is not about me! It is not about our favorite Bible teachers. It is about Jesus.
3. So, plant seeds of the gospel. Water the seeds that have been planted. Trust God to make them grow.
4. Get used to labels. You will be called foolish (or worse).
5. Remember, the call to be a Christ follower is a call to die.

...dying to the desire of being praised, being great, getting recognition, power and authority and having everyone think your right. It is a willingness to pursue humility, to wash other's feet, and to be broken for the lost. Jesus said: "Take up your cross and follow me!"

6. Be united in the GOSPEL.
 - truth breeds unity
 - unity breeds compromise
7. "What are you praying for that if it happened, the only thing you could do is praise God?" Howard Hendricks

HOME GROUP questions for 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5...

1. How do you think God makes foolish the wisdom of the world? (verses 22-24) Can you think of any other examples?
2. How do you think one would apply the truths expressed in verses 26-29 into our daily lives? Do you think it is important to do so?
3. How can we begin or continue to rely on God's power in our lives?
4. Where do you think the wisdom of men or our age always leads? Read Romans 1:18-32. This begs the question, "How can man live without God?"

What happens in this passage? (Retell the passage in your own words.)
What does this say about God? What does this say about man (me)? Make an "I will..." statement about what you will do to obey this passage. (How did you do with last week's "I will..." statement?) Who can you discuss this passage with? (Who did you discuss last week's passage with?)