

1Corinthians 1&amp;2

11/4/18

Sunday Morning

Review:

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

V.19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

V.20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

V.21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

V.22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

V.23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1. "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

- a. God is revealing the foolishness of the world - today
  - i. The world can't comprehend w/ the wisdom of God!
- b. That is why we shouldn't get upset by the foolishness we hear daily
- c. That is also why we shouldn't imitate & emulate the world's wisdom
- d. It is foolishness – the more time goes by the more foolish the world will appear to be
  - i. Sadly, the church will is trying to copy the world's standards
 

**2 Timothy 4:1** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

<sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

V.24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

1. "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"

a. The power of eternal life is in Christ

**Romans 1:16** (NASB) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

b. The power to live life is found in Christ

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

c. All wisdom is found in Christ – Christ can take a simple man & make him wise

**Proverbs 8:1** Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice?

**V.6** "Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips *will reveal right things*.

**V.8** "All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

<sup>9</sup> "They are all straightforward to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.

<sup>10</sup> "Take my instruction and **not** silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold.

<sup>11</sup> "For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.

<sup>12</sup> "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge *and* discretion.

<sup>13</sup> "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

<sup>14</sup> "Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.

**V.18** "Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> "My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield better than choicest silver.

<sup>20</sup> "I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,

V.26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

V.27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

V.28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

V.29 **so that** no man may boast before God.

V.30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

V.31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

1. "by His doing you are in Christ Jesus"

a. "by His doing "

i. you didn't go looking for God – He came to you & spoke to your heart – made you able to respond

b. "you are in Christ Jesus"

i. We can belong to a lot of things: clubs, organizations, fraternities, sororities, but we are first in Christ

ii. As citizens of this nation the law allows us to do certain things – but we are first & foremost location/dwelling is – in Him & we don't do certain things b/c of that relationship

c. I am a Christian **first** – before I am a preacher, farmer, physician, office worker, student or anything else

d. We have one fantastical, great, supernatural, eternally "**first membership**" – "in Him"

i. **First** & foremost, we belong to Christ

- ii. **Secondly**, we belong to the body of Christ – the Church
- iii. And forever we will be "eternally His" & eternally part of the body of other believers who are in Christ
- iv. What does that mean to you? – we should have dedicated our heart, soul, time, dedication, devotion, love – to Him & to His own people

V.30 x But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, *who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,*

2. "who became to us wisdom from God"

a. The world has its own wisdom, glory and greatness – which will **not** last

i. I've always wanted to ask the scholar who denies God's existence a couple of questions – from book of Job

**Job 38:4** "Where were you when I<sup>(God)</sup> laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

<sup>5</sup> Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it?

<sup>6</sup> "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

<sup>7</sup> When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**V.12** "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, And caused the dawn to know its place,

**V.16** "Have you entered into the springs of the sea Or walked in the recesses of the deep?

<sup>17</sup> "Have the gates of death been revealed to you, Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

**V.19** "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

b. By contrast, Christ is wisdom to us – the Source of all wisdom

c. The world can't debate that kind of wisdom

d. For all wisdom is found in Christ

**Colossians 2:3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

V.30 x But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

3. "righteousness"

- a. The world has its own standards for righteousness
- b. By contrast we have been made righteousness thru Him – justified – declared "right" before God
  - i. The world can't debate God's righteousness
  - ii. We stand "right" before God

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, **so that** we might become the righteousness of God **in** Him.

4. "sanctification"

- a. The world is set apart for its own purposes
- b. By contrast we have been set apart for God
- c. Exodus paints a perfect picture of our sanctification

**Exodus 13:1** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

- i. **That is us** – we belong to Him
- ii. Remember how Paul described us?

**1 Corinthians 1:2** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified<sup>(set apart)</sup> in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation **through sanctification** by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

- iii. It is God who sets us apart for Himself

5. "redemption"

- a. The world has a thousand, foggy notions of its own kind of redemption
- b. By contrast – He is our redemption

- c. But we have **not** been totally redeemed yet
  - i. We wait for the **grand finale**

**Romans 8:23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

**Ephesians 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
  - ii. Our day of final redemption is described in **chapter 15**

**1 Corinthians 15:52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

V.2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

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

V.4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

V.5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

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

1. "I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom" (**V.1**)

a. Paul makes it clear that their salvation didn't depend on man's giftedness or abilities

i. It also doesn't depend on our ability to make people question their salvation – that takes away the work of God!

b. He goes on to explain in detail **V.2**

V.2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

1. "I determined to know nothing among you except"

a. Paul is talking to people who have never heard the gospel before

- b. He refused to try & impress them w/ intellect – even though that is what impressed people of Corinth
- c. The Gettysburg address contained 268 words
- d. The average presidential inaugural address has 2000 words
- e. Here is the gospel – 28 words

**1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that <sup>#1</sup>Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that <sup>#2</sup>He was buried, and that <sup>#3</sup>He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- i. You can elaborate on that

**1 John 5:12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

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

V.4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

- 1. “not in persuasive words...but in...demonstration...Spirit and of power”
  - a. We feel that if we can just say things w/ real authority then we will be heard
  - b. No man will ever be able to do the Holy Spirit’s work
  - c. It is God’s Spirit that does the work of converting men
    - i. Look at the invitations Christ offered to people
    - ii. They were hard to understand
  - d. Why that is so important that it is a demonstration of the Spirit?

#### V.5

V.5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

- 1. “so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men”
  - a. What rest on man can be taken away by man
  - b. TV preacher that fell from grace – hurt a lot of people
    - i. They were looking at the man
  - c. Paul didn’t have much to attract people to himself – he had some kind of chronic illness

**2 Corinthians 10:10** For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

- d. He had some kind of chronic illness
- i. Why didn't God take that away?
 

**2 Corinthians 12:7** Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

<sup>8</sup> Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

<sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, **so that** the power of Christ may dwell in me.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
  - ii. God's power is sometimes better served thru human frailties
 

**2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this **treasure** in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;
  - iii. God has made you just the way He wants you for the job He has called you to do!
- e. Don't let the world dictate to you what you need to be successful
- Proverbs 14:12** There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
- f. God has called every believer in this room to live for Him
- g. He has made you just for that purpose
- h. Don't look at yourself & wish you had certain attributes you don't have – God has designed you **w/ purpose**

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



