

"Wisdom and the Cross"

I Corinthians 1:17-31

A Corinthian view of the Cross

A Stumbling Block (vs 22-23)

- The Jews wanted signs (Matthew 12:38-39, 16:1-2, Mark 8:11-12, Luke 11:16, 23:8, John 2:18, 4:48)
- So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? John 6:30
- The wisdom of the world stumbles at the humility of the cross
- At the time of Jesus, the "sign" of the cross was weakness, defeat, punishment and death.
- Tertullian argued that no reasoning human would ever make up something like the crucified God-man and try to preach it around the world, unless it were true.

A Laughing Stock (vs 18, 22-23)

- The Greeks (Gentiles) wanted wisdom.
- The cross made no logical sense to the Greeks.
- The wisdom of the world laughs at the glory of the cross.

A Solid Rock (vs 17-21, 24)

The power of the cross is the power of God.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Boasting in the Cross (vs 25-29, 31)

"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

¹⁷"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

The Wisdom of the Cross (vs 30, Colossians 2:2-3)

- Righteousness – our standing before God, we are declared justified, righteous in Jesus (Romans 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Sanctification – we are set apart by God and for God (John 17:19, Ephesians 2:10)
- Redemption – we are free from our sin because Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross (Romans 3:23-24, Ephesians 1:14, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 Peter 18-19)

