



Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Coram Deo: *To intentionally live all of life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, by the grace of God, for the glory of God*

Wisdom: *using knowledge & truth to intentionally show glory to God and love for people*

WHY DOES THE CROSS CAUSE STUMBLING AND SEEM STUPID TO THOSE IN UNBELIEF?

(1 Corinthians 1:18-22)

- 1) **REVEALS the WEAKNESS of UNBELIEF in every person**
 - a) JEWS- want SIGNS to tantalize their senses and be entertained
 - b) GENTILES- seek the WISDOM of old philosophers to justify their lazy belief
 - c) PRESENT PEOPLE- use a combination of good works and religious moralism to promote self over God— *(Philip Pullman's trilogy His Dark Materials)*
- 2) **REVEALS the INDWELLING SIN of every person**
 - a) We are all STRONG in our WILL to SIN
 - b) We all DESIRE, CHOOSE, & JUSTIFY our UNBELIEF
 - i) behind every sin is an idol, behind every idol is an unbelief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - c) Unbelief: a system of faith that omits God as our highest good and need
 - i) meaning we can believe we need God, but also believe we need something more
- 3) **REVEALS the EMPTINESS of BOASTING about our CONVENTIONAL WISDOM & RELIGION**
 - a) Humanity has tried to brag about our abilities for millennia - we're smarter, stronger, better
 - i) ie. Pyramids, Tower of Babel, Technology, Enlightenment
 - b) Our boasting has ALWAYS come up short in dealing with ETERNITY & the FALLENNESS of humanity
 - c) The CROSS of Christ tells everyone they need a PERPETUAL Savior
 - i) we don't merely need Him for Salvation
 - ii) we need Him to preserve us for eternity

HOW IS THE CROSS THE POWER & WISDOM OF GOD? (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-25, 30)

- 1) **God's WISDOM is His WORD displayed for all who BELIEVE**
 - a) His Word
 - i) READ in the form of the BIBLE
 - ii) PROCLAIMED in the form of the GOSPEL
 - iii) KNOWN in the PERSON & WORK of Jesus Christ
- 2) **God's POWER is displayed in PAYING our RANSOM & TAKING our PUNISHMENT**

- a) God took and paid our DEBT through His Son's death and resurrection
- b) God in His wisdom, knew we needed SAVING and we could NOT save ourselves
- c) This GOOD NEWS is our POWER & WISDOM *(2 Peter 1:3)*
- 3) **God's POWER has brought/ is bringing HOSTILE people into a LOVE relationship with Him through FAITH & REPENTANCE (Romans 6:8)**
 - a) God has transformed the heart of the rebellious sinner through His grace
 - b) Your CONFESSION & REPENTANCE
 - i) through FAITH in CHRIST is God's POWER on display
 - ii) of rebellion puts God's WISDOM into action
 - c) God confuses conventional wisdom through transforming people in this manner because it doesn't fit into their Matrix—*This is NOT the way for them*

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (1 Corinthians 1:18, 26-31)

- 1) **Stop worrying about fitting into the cultural narrative**
 - a) This is NOT the way for us
 - b) We are not transformed through politics, national pride, entertainment, comfort, or security
- 2) **CONFESS we have sought wisdom outside God**
 - a) We know God is our LASTING HOPE, but we still seek SHINY things and Squirrels
 - b) We need to have a FRANK and ERNEST conversation with God where we admit our UNBELIEF in God's Wisdom
- 3) **REPENT of trying to grasp God's position**
 - a) We are still committing the sin of our First Parents
 - b) We grasp as God's position because we want to be in control and/or we believe we are more wise
- 4) **Embrace & Enjoy Jesus**
 - a) Embracing Jesus' SOVEREIGNTY over us will bring the FREEDOM we desire
 - b) Embracing Jesus' WORK on the CROSS through intentionally living as someone who is RIGHTEOUS, HOLY, and REDEEMED
 - c) ENJOYING Jesus by BRAGGING about Him
 - i) we brag about the things we love and of which we are proud

Is the Cross of Christ ENOUGH for you?

Gospel in Life Group Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
 - 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE *(convict)* ME?
 - 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS *(GOSPEL)* to ME today? *(CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)*
 - 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
 - 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?
- ❖ **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5