

Sermon Notes – October 8, 2017

Review:

- ⇒ We learned last week how the divisions and quarreling in the Corinthian church were a matter of people and personality as opposed to doctrinal differences.
- ⇒ Remember the context: The ancient city of Corinth was “prosperous, cosmopolitan, and religiously pluralistic, accustomed to visits by impressive, traveling public speakers and obsessed with status, self-promotion, and personal rights.”
- ⇒ Paul urges his readers to become united “in the same mind and the same judgment” by directing them to the true source of unity: the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Today’s Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Today’s text continues Paul’s thought in verse 17 where he begins to contrast the “eloquent wisdom” favored in Corinth with the blunt reality of the gospel. For the next few weeks, we’ll see Paul unpack what it means to believe and follow a seemingly “foolish” God in a culture that esteems wisdom and power.

A “Foolish” Message

- ⇒ Corinth valued articulate _____ and _____ as the means to prove or discover divine truth. The driving motivation of this “lofty speech” was only to _____ power and influence. (v.17, 22; 2:1-5)
- ⇒ Over time, human wisdom will always prove _____ and _____. In the face of God, any “wisdom” of mankind is not just trivial but inherently _____. (cf. Isa. 29:14)
- ⇒ Self-_____ is the message of the world. The message of the cross is self-_____.
- ⇒ Paul makes it clear: every person is on one of two paths—the path of _____ or the path of _____. It is your response to “the word of the cross” that will determine which path you are on.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Ben McCardell
“The Wisdom of God in a Suffering Savior”

A Divine Message

- ⇒ Look no farther than _____ to see how well human wisdom has done at eliminating _____ and providing lasting freedom and peace.
- ⇒ No _____ could ever conjure up _____ plan for redemption by crucifixion of the Divine Son. No amount of human strategy or scheme will ever _____. This preposterous folly of God is a _____ folly. (v.21)
- ⇒ Salvation is only accomplished by Divine wisdom and power.

Christ: the Power and Wisdom of God

- ⇒ God incarnate dying on the cross as the responsible _____ for all sin is the most _____ and _____ message possible.
- ⇒ As the cornerstone of God’s redemptive plan, Jesus _____ God’s wisdom and power. On the most wonderful day in history, on the cross, Jesus manifested the perfect power and wisdom of God.
- ⇒ In Christ, the human paradigm of wisdom and power is _____ on its head. The fools become wise and the weak become strong as much as the wise become fools and strong become weak. (Cf. Matt. 16:24-25; 23:8-12; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Responding to God’s Word:

- ⇒ It is easy for us to follow our own wisdom rather than God’s—so easy that sometimes we don’t even realize it. Take time to reflect on some recent and significant actions that you took (financial/relational/vocational/etc.). What was your ultimate motivation? Self-gain or sacrificial service?
- ⇒ We must recognize our own inadequacy to solve our problems and save ourselves. The Christian life, as described in Scripture, should reflect intellectual humility, awe, and a reliance on a wisdom that is not our own. Every day the Spirit offers opportunities to learn and grow. We Christians, “have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16). Are you taking advantage of the Spirit’s helping presence?
- ⇒ Preach the message--both to yourself and your neighbor: Despite the “foolishness” of the cross, declare with Paul “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes...” (Rom. 1:16).