



MESSAGE/SERIES:

1 Corinthians 1 “The Eternal Wisdom of God”

DATE: June 23, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK: OPENING SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Isaiah 29:14, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 2 Corinthians 2:14, 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:10, Acts 2:47, Romans 1:16, Matthew 11:25, Romans 1:22, Matthew 12:38-42, Colossians 2:3

[1 Corinthians 1:18-25]

¹⁸ “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

BACKGROUND:

- **Judaism** stressed divine wisdom
 - *We find a **personification** of Wisdom in scripture*
 - The **Greek** loved philosophy and eloquent speech
 - **Romans** viewed death on the cross as appropriate for slaves and not important people
 - *Society was built around male power and status*
 - *It was inconceivable that a crucified man could be anything other than slave and definitely not savior or King*
 - **Jews and Greeks** were both known for attesting miracles and elevated the learning about the supernatural claims
 - **Paul uses Irony** which was often used as a rhetorical device in their culture to describe God's wisdom and strength in verses 24-25
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OUTLINE:

I. WISDOM OF MAN

A. The Cultural view of wisdom

1. *Man defines wisdom with reason (what makes sense through natural eyes)*
2. *Man defines wisdom with status (Roman view)*
3. *Man defines wisdom with religious elitism (Judaism)*
4. *Man defines wisdom with eloquent speech and the philosophy of man (Greek)*

B. God's view of Human Wisdom

1. *Man cannot understand the Cross/The Gospel apart from God*
 - a) *Man is Spiritually dead and unable to hear God's voice*
 - (1) **Ephesians 2:1-3** *"And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."*

- (a) **Noetic effects of Sin** has Darkened the mind to the Things of God...
 - (i) God must intervene for there to be understanding and cognitive rest in true salvific faith
 - (ii) Because of our identification and association with the first Adam we cannot understand the things of God especially the Cross... (This work is assigned to the Holy Spirit and the Word- emphasized here in these verses)

II. WISDOM OF GOD

A. God defines wisdom

1. *With Divine Agency "The power of God [unto Salvation]"- (the very message in content not skill is God at work)*
 - a) **Romans 1:16** *"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."*
 - (1) This message/ Not smooth talking speakers **radically transforms man** as a participant in the life of Christ
 - (2) This truth means that the message itself is **effective to produce salvation**
 - (a) Produces **Noetic Regeneration** (Changes our Minds/beliefs)
 - (b) Begins a **Noetic Sanctification** (Gradual change in other biblical understanding that comes with further exposure to the truth of the Word.
 - b) Paul sites **Isaiah 29:14** in (v19) *God has **Destroyed or Nullified= Obliterated human wisdom***
 - (1) Made it useless in the things of God/ spiritual matters
 - (2) *The cross changed everything*
 - (3) *None of the earthly/worldly knowledge amount to eternal difference when it comes to salvation*
 - (4) *The cross is offensive, Non-sense, or Beautiful there are no in-betweens*
2. *The Cross in its simplicity and perceived weakness is enough for the salvation of all who will believe.*
 - a) *God made the Cross the centerpiece of the Gospel and the Good news is it is Finished and through faith all who believe await*

*(Biblical Hope= Joyful expectation of things promised to Come)
the completion of our salvation at His return*

Have you stopped to think that when He said it is finished that meant every Sin past present and future of every individual who would ever believe in Him was **Paid In Full...**

The **full Wrath of God** poured out on Jesus for us...

OTHER STUDY HELPS:

- The crucifixion was instituted by the **Persians**
- Continued under **Alexander the Great** (Dominate Greek Leader 356 BC)
- Crucifixions were abolished by **Constintine** (Roman leader 306-337 AD)

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----
Church,

God gives us wisdom. God gives us an understanding through the power of the word and through the work of the Holy Spirit. We cannot talk up salvation. We cannot sing enough verses of "Just as I am" to conger up the courage to run to an altar. The message of the Cross is given to those who will by faith trust In the finished work of the Cross and its transforming work. Praise God He opens the eyes of blind, and the ears of the deaf to hear and see truth that transforms us into Children of God. Are you thankful for His grace? God called your name and gave you faith to surrender to Jesus and this same message is commanded that we preach, teach, and share in a dark world that as we pray He may use us and His message to do the same work in our loved ones! Take courage Jesus died on a cross and we are drawn to see it for ourselves as our victory banner.

I pray this message and this Hope fills your soul to the point of overflowing this week.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

