

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "A 'Foolish' Message & The Power of God"- Part 1 of 2

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, September 20, 2020

Introduction:

The church is often divided by chasing the wisdom of the world, when we should be **united** in proclaiming the message of the Cross.

1. The message of the cross is central to God's **redemptive plan.** (v. 18a)

Scripture: Luke 24:46-47; Romans 3:23; 5:8; Acts 20:21

2. The wisdom of the world **opposes the word (message) of the cross.** (v. 18b-20)

Scripture: Isaiah 29:14; Proverbs 13:13

3. The message of the Cross is God's only **means for salvation.** (v. 21)

Scripture: Romans 10:13-14; Psalm 14:1-3

4. The message of the cross does not meet our **demands.** (v. 22-23)

Scripture: Romans 1:4

Those that are *perishing* reject the message of the cross of Christ:

A. They reject Christ as **Messiah** and Savior.

B. They reject the cross as the **means** of salvation.

5. The message of the cross emphasizes **God's power & wisdom.** (v. 24-25)

A. Salvation is a divine work. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

B. Salvation is an inclusive work. (Ephesians 2:13)

C. Salvation is a gracious work. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Conclusion:

The church that fails to clearly proclaim the wisdom and power of the cross, will be characterized by powerless **foolishness**.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

- What is the message of the cross?
- Who are "the perishing" and why are they perishing?
- What were the demands of the Jews and Greeks? How were they disappointed by the message of the cross?
- Why are Christians tempted to resort to other means to draw people to Jesus? What is wrong with these other means?
- Is God really foolish or weak? What does Paul mean by "the foolishness of God" and the "weakness of God"?