

The Sin City Follies (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. What kind of strange church is this?
 - B. The offense of the cross and its message
 - C. Reading the text and outline of the message
- II. **1 Corinthians 1:18-21** *The message of the cross divides the human race, powerfully, by God's design and decree*
 - A. Review of the context - Paul's concern over dissension in the church
 - 1. The proposition of the epistle - 1 Cor 1:10
 - 2. Paul's rebuke of the 'Paul faction' 1 Cor 1:13,17
 - 3. The first reason for the dissensions - *a misunderstanding of the Gospel's power to save* (1:18-2:5)
 - B. Correcting the misunderstanding concerning the power of the Gospel
 - 1. The Gospel is not and never was a self-help philosophy, but is *the power of God unto salvation!*
 - C. The *message of the cross divides humanity* into *saved* and *unsaved*
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – What is *the message of the cross*
 - a. **Listen carefully so you know which group you are in**
 - 2. 1 Co 1:19 (Isaiah 29:14) wisdom is destroyed ... in the cross
 - 3. Where does following after our own wisdom lead?
 - a. Romans 1:18-25 – worshiping the creature
 - b. self-idolatry and recreating God in our image
 - D. The *message of cross* is powerful
 - 1. In the cross, God accomplished what all of the most supremely wise philosophical systems of men fail to even address
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:20 “*Where is the wise?*”
 - b. How refreshing to know we don't need a 120 IQ to be saved!
 - E. *The message of the cross divides the human race, powerfully, by God's design and decree*
 - 1. *that no flesh should glory in His presence!* (1 Cor 1:29)
 - 2. it is a *foolish message* that powerfully saves!
 - F. Application: Preach this foolish message, nothing less, nothing more!
 - 1. it needs not revision, alteration or addition
 - 2. preach with confidence, for it is God who does the work
 - 3. do not risk diluting the power of the Gospel with human ideas
- III. **1 Corinthians 1:22-25** *The message of the cross, in its power to save demonstrates that the foolishness of God is wiser than men*
 - A. 1 Corinthians 1:22 – How unbelieving Jews and Greeks seek God
 - 1. *Jews request a sign* (Matt 12:38-39, 16:1, John 4:48, 6:26)
 - a. People still are seeking God on their own terms
 - 2. *Greeks seek after wisdom*
 - B. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 – God's answer to both groups
 - 1. Christ crucified
 - 2. Wisdom and Power
 - C. 1 Corinthians 1:25 – God is glorified by a foolish weak cross