

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week, we began a new series of messages focusing on Paul's first epistle to the church of Corinth.
- * The City of Corinth physically sat an important crossroad: for foot travel in Grecian peninsula and for sea travel for those seeking to bypass traversing around the peninsula.
- * Hence, the church of Corinth sat at a crossroads as well - a crossroads of clashing cultures. They struggled in knowing how to apply their new faith in the One True God in a world of hedonism and idolatry. Additionally, they struggled with the conflicting Libertine views of the Gentiles and the Legalistic views of the Jews.
- * Our study of this epistle will give us opportunity to discuss many of these same struggles which face the church of America today.
- * In our study last week, we saw the sovereignty of God in the establishment, calling, enrichment and confirmation of the church. Paul began the epistle by reminding and encouraging the believers of Corinth how God had called them out of the world in order to be set apart.
- * However, as we begin to see today, their unity in Christ was being tested by the doctrines of man.
- * Over the next three Sundays, we will consider the same major portion of Scripture. Today, we will be focusing upon the parenthetical teaching of Paul as he deals with this apparent division in the church.

INSTRUCTION: *The Wisdom of God is Displayed in ...***I. THE M _____ OF THE C _____ (cf. 1:17-25; 2:1-5)**

... it is both a message of eternal deliverance and a message of eternal condemnation

A. Is A S _____ to the Jews (cf. Romans 9:30-33)

B. Is F _____ to the Greeks (cf. Acts 17:22-34)

C. Is the P _____ to the Called (cf. Romans 1:16; 10:17)

II. THE M _____ OF THE C _____ (cf. 1:25-31)

A. God Has Chosen the F _____ to Put to Shame the W _____

B. God Has Chosen the W _____ to Put to Shame the M _____ (cf. Zechariah 4:6)

C. God Has Chosen the N _____ to Put to Shame the S _____

III. THE M _____ OF THE C _____ (cf. 2:6-16)

A. ... Was O _____ Before the Ages (cf. 2:6-9)

B. ... Is R _____ Through His Spirit (cf. 2:10-16)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS TO YOU? IS IT THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION?
- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD IS ABLE TO USE YOU IN THE SERVICE OF HIS KINGDOM?
- * HOW FAITHFUL ARE YOU TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD IN ORDER TO RIGHTLY DISCERN THE MYSTERY OF GOD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Do Americans tend to be more "Greek" or "Jewish" in their response to the message of the cross? How can we effectively minister to those who respond in such a manner?
- * How do we tend to gauge "good" messages and "good" speakers? How does Paul's challenge in 2 Timothy 4:1-5 apply to this discussion?