

THE CROSS OF CHRIST ... EMPTIED? 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

There is a way to proclaim the gospel that makes the cross of Christ _____ of power, results and meaning
Verse 17 teaches that it is “wisdom of _____ “ that empties the gospel of its power, results and meaning
Paul means the human wisdom of the Greek philosophers who believed the human _____ was the path to God
They also highly valued public _____ and rhetoric and believed it the best way to communicate the gospel
In vv.18-25 Paul attempts to dislodge this human wisdom and rhetoric from the hearts of the Cor. Christians ...

- I. BY CONNECTING THE HUMILIATING WORD OF THE CROSS WITH THE _____ OF GOD
 - A. Paul Contrasts “the Word of the _____ “ to “the Wisdom of Word”
 - 1) “The word of the cross is _____ to those who are perishing”—it is for morons! Why?
 - 2) The word “cross” was literally a 4-letter word—*crux*—too _____ to be mentioned in polite society
 - 3) Based on Deut.21, many Jews believed any person hung on a tree (cross) was _____ by God
 - B. Paul Links the Word of the Cross to the _____ of God
 - 1) If the world thinks the cross foolishness, we expect Paul to say the cross is the _____ of God
 - 2) But the shame, ugliness and humiliation of the cross is forever linked to the _____ of God
- II. BY REMINDING US THAT GOD IS DETERMINED TO _____ THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD
 - A. God WILL Destroy the _____ of the Wise *Isaiah 29:14*
 - 1) In Isaiah’s day the wise counselled to disobey God & rely on a treaty w/ _____ to stave off Assyria
 - 2) This quotation assures us that in the future—the end times—the wisdom of the wise will be _____
 - B. God Has Made the Wisdom of the World _____
 - 1) We expect this statement to be in the _____ tense: God WILL make the wisdom of world foolish
 - 2) Paul teaches us to evaluate the wisdom of the world right now from the perspective of _____
- III. BY EXPLAINING HOW COUNTERCULTURAL THE _____ MUST BE
 - A. Why Did the Culture in Corinth Reject the _____ ?
 - 1) The Jews _____ a miraculous sign
 - a) Because of their history, Jews demanded miraculous signs of Jesus to prove He was the _____
 - b) Jesus provided the sign of Jonah: the Jews _____ over it instead of founded their lives on it
 - 2) The Greeks sought after _____
 - 3) Popular culture today is dominated by _____

 - B. Why Shouldn’t We Seek to _____ Men with Worldly Wisdom?
 - 1) The power of the gospel does not depend upon our _____
 - 2) Our primary concern is that _____ will be at work in the hearts of men calling them to salvation