
Sermon Notes

March 6, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Word of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Spiritual Starvation

- ❖ “People are starving for the grandeur of God, and the vast majority do not know it.” (John Piper)
 - those who do not set their heart, mind and affections on the infinite value of the glory of God will seek to fill this void in other ways
 - how desperately do we hunger and thirst for God? (Psalm 63:1-2, Psalm 27:4)
- ❖ Seeking the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ is meant to be the heart cry of every Christ follower
 - this pursuit is the centerpiece of all we do
 - this is the source of all of our hope
- ❖ God makes the ultimate display of His power and wisdom through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross of Calvary

The Word of The Cross

- ❖ The cross of Christ is a witness to the infinite worth of God’s glory and a witness to the immensity of my sin

- the fact that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) is an uncomfortable truth that is radically unpalatable to the human heart
- Paul’s words about the power and wisdom of God collide with a world view that puts self at the center of everything
- ❖ As Paul writes to the Corinthians, he addresses a culture that is in love with human-centered philosophy and human wisdom
 - the primary reason the message of the cross seemed like folly to those in this culture is because it destroys human pride
 - the message of the cross undercuts pride and exalts Christ... not us
 - Paul exalts God’s wisdom over human wisdom and labels it: **foolishness**
- ❖ When the Bible speaks of wisdom, it has much more than an intellectual quality in view
 - wisdom is not merely intelligence or knowledge
 - wisdom is also a moral quality that involves the pursuit of the highest purposes AND accomplishes the greatest good
 - all of God’s acts are wise
 - there is no better way to do anything God does than the way God does it
- ❖ The pairing of God’s power with God’s wisdom surfaces throughout the OT
 - Job 9:4, 12:13; Daniel 2:20

- J. I. Packer, “Wisdom without power would be pathetic... power without wisdom would be merely frightening...”
- God’s infinite power is inseparably intertwined with God’s infinite wisdom
- ❖ Wisdom sees the end from the beginning
- ❖ There are 3 components to the wisdom of God
 - the power to see
 - the inclination to choose the best and highest goals
 - the power to accomplish those goals
- ❖ A. W. Tozer says wisdom is “the skill to achieve the most perfect ends, by the most perfect means.”

God’s Purpose

- ❖ The supreme expression of God’s power and God’s wisdom is put on display through all He ordains leading up to and culminating in Jesus’ crucifixion
 - what seems like foolishness or weakness to an unredeemed person is actually the wisdom and power of God in action
 - the greatest display of divine power and wisdom this world has ever seen or ever will see is in salvation
 - to reject the cross is to reject God’s greatest revelation of His power and His wisdom
- ❖ Who but God could or would ever have come up with a more brilliant, profound, stunning yet simple plan of salvation?
 - contemplate all that God does through the life and ministry of Jesus as He orchestrates the events of the

crucifixion and arranges for the One who knew no sin to become sin for us

- God takes the sin of all who trust in Jesus and transfers it onto Christ so that Jesus bears our sins in His body on that cross
- ❖ Human wisdom cannot understand the cross
 - to the natural mind, the cross is offensive and unacceptable
 - but, *to those who are called...* it is *the power of God and the wisdom of God*
 - *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*
 - brings death to my self-reliance
 - humbles me, prunes me, teaches me to deny and distrust myself
 - puts His life on display through me
- ❖ Because of the word of the cross, whatever trials, temptations and testings God designs for you, you will not face any of them alone

Personal Application

1. How desperately do you hunger and thirst after God?
2. The word of the cross (the gospel message) provides the greatest display of Gfsod’s power and wisdom. How has this message worked to humble you, prune you, and to teach you to deny and distrust yourself?
3. How is Christ putting His life on display through you and causing others to see His power and wisdom in action?