

Theme: The wisdom of God revealed in the cross of Christ is foolishness, even offensive, to the wise of this world. The wisdom of God revealed in the church brings great peace and power, even in suffering for His Name.

Introduction – We expect obedience to be rewarded – with thanks, praise, greater responsibility. Text before us shows that it may be rewarded with suffering – and **joy!**

- I. The Wisdom of God Is Declared 30-32
  - In Christ's death and resurrection
  - In His grace, not our works
  - As folly to the world; but wisdom and power to those being saved (1 Cor.11:16 ff)
  
- II. The Wisdom of the World Is Expressed
  - A. In Its Pride! ("Wisdom" in the world is often rooted in Pride)
    - 1. The Pride and Anger of the Sanhedrin (Sadducees particularly!)
    - 2. The Pride of the World's "elite".
  
  - B. In Thoughtful Reasoning?
    - 1. Gamaliel's Wisdom & Humility
    - 2. Worldly Wisdom – But Wisdom none-the-less.
      - a. Wise Counsel – what he says is often true!
      - b. Useful – We don't ignore the "wisdom" expressed in the world
      - c. But it is not Inviolable/invariable – not a "law" nor an ironclad promise

NOTE: Do we show the same humility (as Gamaliel) when confronting the challenges of this world?

- III. The Wisdom of God Brings Power
  - A. Those in power have their way (with the Apostle's)
  
  - B. Those in God's Way Have His Power
    - 1. Honor and grace in Suffering Matt.5:10-12

NOTE: Devil has never given up trying to destroy the church (or His saints) by force.  
 -Tertullian's "Apology" "The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; *the blood of Christians is seed.*" (Chp.50)

IN God's wisdom There is Honor and grace in Suffering!

- 2. Power in proclamation!

IV. Conclusion: What can we say to this?? God's wisdom confounds the wise. His thoughts are not our thoughts, his ways are not our ways.

They are Better! Always!! Eternally!!

A. Freedom and Liberty have been ours – but they have their dangers.

B. Seek the joys that last.

C. Pray that you may Persevere

D. Don't fear Civil and Spiritual Disobedience!

1. The world in its wisdom says:

-Suffering is just that – suffering and misery.

2. God in His perfect Wisdom says,

-You must obey me rather than men.

-In facing persecution, you will also know my blessing and pleasure.

-Luke 6:22,23 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! *Rejoice* in that day, and *leap for joy*, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”