

The Source of Wisdom in the Church (1)

It has been my sad experience with some of the Charismatics to see them strut in their pride saying they have the “Full Gospel.” By that they mean that if all you have to talk about is a crucified and risen Christ and you do not speak in tongues then you do not have the “Full Gospel.”

But my dear fellow sinners, the full Gospel message must include the eternal Word, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the One that Moses and the prophets foretold. The Word who became flesh, born of the Holy Spirit from the womb of a sinful virgin that He would have a true human nature. The Christ who had to suffer the humiliation of the contradiction of sinners against Himself as He lived His sinless life under the very Law that He gave to Moses and under the same Law that condemns every natural son of Adam. He was put on trial before the Jews and before the Romans and although He was innocent of all of the charges brought against Him He nonetheless was put in the rank and order of sinners by God the Father as He took the place of those given to Him by the Father before the world was created.

The Message Preached

1 Cor 1:18-25

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¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."*

²⁰ Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Vs. 18: For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Gospel divides mankind into two groups; the saved and the lost.

Christ's death on the cross just isn't enough for some religious people!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' Romans 1:16-17

Vs. 19-21: Paul quotes Isaiah 29:14

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What is the wisdom of the world? Evolution!

No place for the Creator; just time and chance.

You cannot know God through the wisdom of the world.
But God uses what lost men call foolish to save those He has called.
It is not a foolish message; some preacher act like clowns.
But to the lost world the message of the cross is foolish.

Vs. 22-24:

²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Are there three "ways" to know God?

You can hear all three "ways" being preached somewhere.

Vs. 23 says only one message is true!

1. Vs. 22: “The Jews require a sign.”
They represent moral, religious, externalized religion.
2. Vs. 22: “The Greeks seek after wisdom.”
They represent philosophers w/o Word of God;
intellectuals w/o moral restraint.
3. Vs. 24: But to those who are “called,”
Both Jew and non-Jew
Christ is the “sign,” i.e. power...
Christ is wisdom.

Christ Crucified to the “uncalled” Jew, or to anyone else who is religious and lost, is a stumbling block (*skandalon*); OFFENSIVE, scandalous, that which angers.

Christ Crucified as opposed to law/works, for gaining God’s acceptance.
The Jews say, “What good is a DEAD Messiah?”

Christ Crucified to the “uncalled” Greek or anyone else who is wise in his own opinion, is foolishness (*moria*), moronic, silly, stupid, simple-minded;

It’s O.K. to accept a “higher power,” but trusting in the shed blood of a dead Man?

How unsophisticated can you be? Utter FOOLISHNESS

1. Who are the “sign-seekers” today?

Many are swept up in miracles/tongues; TV preachers that claim to heal!
Do you know that most of the people that saw the miracles of the Lord did not come to Him in faith! Cf. John 6:30, 69

Years ago now, I was talking to a lady who professed to be saved. I asked her to tell me how she was saved. She had been depressed and while in a church service, saw a glow over the pulpit and felt at peace.
What has that to do with **Christ Crucified**?

What I say next may offend you if you or someone close to you is involved. I don't want to be personally offensive, but I ask you to search God's Word and don't be offended by it!

Charismatics and Roman Catholics, among others, are today's sign-seekers: moisture forms on a statue, so it "weeps;" an old burial cloth (Shroud of Turin) is something "holy;" wood grain on a hospital door in Jasper, Ala is "Christ's face;" some false prophet will send you a piece of green cloth that he has "prayed over."

What is the similarity between Charismatics and Roman Catholics?
EXTERNAL religion and belief in continuing revelation from God!
Be it tongues or what the Pope says!

The issue is the **authority** and **sufficiency** of the Word of God!

Let me make something very clear. It gets at the very heart of this message. Knowing God is not a result of which church you belong to. Most people are whatever denomination they are because that's what they were born into. Most people have never seriously examined the teachings of their church against the Word of God.

My goal is not to make Baptists out of anyone. Many Baptists in our day are on the "broad road that leads to destruction" because they are trusting in a "decision" that they have been told is the cause for their salvation. But if you can trust **Christ Crucified** and be a Scriptural Baptist too, that's what I believe is most Scriptural.

2. Who are the "wisdom-seekers" today?

They are too smart to believe the Bible. The Bible, they say, is not "intellectual;" that the Bible is not scientific. {Vs. 20} They are Evolutionists.
The "god" of this age is time and chance!
Pseudo-science, and they call it wisdom.

We must not point out the errors of the sign-seekers and the wisdom-seekers of today and fail to preach **Christ Crucified!** Cf. 2:1-2

Harvest Temple Baptist Church in Owensboro, KY has a plaque on the pulpit that only the speaker can see: "Sir, we would see Jesus." John 12:21

3. CHRIST CRUCIFIED, VS 23

If you get swept away by sensationalism, emphasis on prophecy, signs, miracles, etc., **Christ Crucified** will be too simple for you.

Or it will be offensive because it leaves out your “contribution” to your salvation.

What is the gospel? We must not fall into the same trap by making this a proposition that ultimately depends upon your act or decision to validate it. If by the power of the Holy Spirit you can see why Christ **Crucified** is sufficient, then you too are called. That means you didn’t originate or control your knowledge of God. That means you can’t boast/glory in what you did.

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

What is the gospel?

You and I, and everyone else are guilty and condemned sinners.

That means we are helpless, unable to come to God.

That means we are dead in trespasses and sins.

That means we ought to be in Hell right now!

Can you honestly accept your just condemnation?

The righteous judgment of God is certain!

If God will not ultimately punish sin, then why did Jesus suffer and die?

The Person of Jesus Christ is salvation.

You must trust everything about Jesus Christ; His life, His satisfaction of God's holy law, His meritorious death, His blood, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, His present intercession, and His return at the end of this present age.

Your trust in Jesus Christ is not only in the historical fact of Jesus, but in His righteousness and not in your own.

Jesus Christ is not a beggar! He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus will either save you or damn you to everlasting hell.

Matt 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

That is the Gospel!

Now this message of the Gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing.

Do you trust in **Christ Crucified**, or are you perishing?

Don't go to hell offended by a sufficient Savior.