

Wisdom of the World and the Foolishness of God (1 Cor 1:22-25)

A.W. Tozer “what comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

- We worship our idea of God, that Idea determines all that we think and do.
- Everyone of us becomes like the God we worship: self or true God in the Bible
- Paul writes of the offence of the cross, you can't bypass the cross & get to God
- The cross means the end of human autonomy, which has always been our death
- Paul: Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

I. The Wisdom of the World 1:22

- Why does the world deem God's wisdom as foolish? 2 words: demand & seek
- Jews: God spoke to them, now proud & self righteous, divinely sprung religion
- They demand of all new religions “proof” and “credentials” of authenticity
- Jesus would not perform signs for them, pointed them to Scriptures for proof
- They refused to believe because Jesus would not perform miracles at their will
- Greeks: seek as they worship they know not what: general wisdom & truth
- Paradoxical result: those who are opposed at most every point unite in one thing
- Their rejection of Christ! Cross contradicts presuppositions of both religion and reasoning of a world that continues to despise it.

II. The Foolishness of Preaching Christ crucified 1:23

- Paul's answer to Jew's demand and Greeks seeking ‘we preach Christ crucified’
- Paul continues ‘a stumbling block’ to Jews. Why? Cursed is one hung on tree
- Calling a crucified man ‘Messiah’ – for the Jews was spiritual insensitivity
- To the Gentiles foolishness” – a man nailed to a Cross is the Savior, utter folly
- God has made himself unknown & utterly unknowable to human wisdom
- Children of God, do not fully understand but receive and accept cross by faith.

III. Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God (1:24,25)

- This is God's solution to man's inability, God calls ‘verb’ found in (1:2,9)
- 1) Paul describes 4 of God's effective means: His power (24) Christ is His Power
 - 2) Wisdom of God: Christ is God's reply to Jews Gentiles who think it's foolish
 - 3) Foolishness: For the foolishness of God is wiser than men
 - 4) Weakness: For the weakness of God is stronger than men