

The Word of the Cross 1 Corinthians 1: 18

- Throughout the ages one fundamental Gospel truth is constantly under attack
- Nothing assaults & confronts the foolishness of human wisdom like the Cross
- Paul received reports from Chloe's household of factions in the Corinthian church
- It didn't take long for the carnal wisdom to enter the church & cause division
- Amidst a groundswell of opinion & philosophy, Paul answers with one word

I. The Word of the Cross

- Cross doesn't have many words but one, one atonement, one Saviour, one Gospel
- The Corinthians had been seduced & fallen captive to empty worldly philosophy
- Vs. 17 'Words...wisdom' – 'spruce the Gospel up' make it attractive to the world
- The cross is sublimely simple, to try & spruce it up is to grievously dishonor it
- Text literally says: 'let the Word of the cross speak for itself' don't soft coat it.
- Word of cross : '**God must be just**' – sighs, cries, groans of Jesus' suffering
- Word of cross : **God loves men & delights in mercy**, Jesus died for the unjust
- Word of cross: **ransomed paid & atonement accepted** – God's justice satisfied
- Word of cross: **come & welcome-** he who died is very God of God as well as man

II. The Word of its Haters

- World of lost sinners sees doctrine of atonement foolishness, hatred for the cross
- They don't acknowledge God, & so are given over to sin's corruption (Rom 1:28)
- Those who reject the cross, go from bad to worse, their sins devour them

III. The Word of the Cross- Power to us who are being saved

- The blood of Jesus has broken the power of cancelled sin for every true believer
- We may fall & stumble in sin, but we hate our sin & we mourn over our sin
- Once we feared the wrath of God because of our sin, trembling before our Father
- We hardly thought of God, and when we did we were terrified & fled from Him
- Now because of the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near
- Now we love to draw near, we desire to be conformed into the image of His Son
- We are daily being delivered from our sin, self and the world that enthralled us
- Power God used to create the world is the same power which made us new in Christ
- The power with which God sustains the world is not greater than the power that sustains us in temptation.