

2013-2014



First Love
the corinthian letters

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The Corinthian Letters

Lamplighters Women's Bible Study
September 18, 2013



Announcements

- Cry Room
- Parking: anywhere in the parking lot after 9:15.

“stork” parking in circle

mobility impaired in any spot reserved
for that—back of sanctuary or in
the circle



THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

1. The Gospel: God's Upside Down Wisdom—
1 Cor. 1:18-2:5
 - a. A crucified Messiah 1:18-25
 - b. The Corinthian believers 1:26-31
 - c. Paul's preaching 2:1-5
2. The Gospel: Revealed by the Spirit—
1 Cor. 2:1-16



God's Upside Down Wisdom

Appearance

- World's wisdom
- Cross is foolishness
- Cross is defeat
- Christ crucified is a stumbling block
- Wisdom of the world is foolishness
- Powerful, wise, noble
- Persuasive speech
- Persuade the mind
- Man's own power
- Can figure it out

Reality

- God's wisdom
- Cross is power
- Cross saves
- Christ crucified is the wisdom and power of God
- The foolishness of God is wise
- Weak, low, despised
- Plain speaking has power
- Persuade the heart
- Power of the Holy Spirit
- Must be revealed by God

The gospel = God's wisdom = the message of salvation through the crucified Messiah

The cross *is* the gospel!



God's Upside Down Wisdom

Demonstrated by:

a crucified Messiah—some stumble,
some laugh, some believe
the Corinthian believers—poor, without
influence, insignificant
Paul's preaching—plain language
from a humble servant



“A God without wrath, to bring people without sin, into a Kingdom without judgment, through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross.”

Richard Niebuhr

“We preach Christ crucified...the power of God and the wisdom of God.” Paul of Tarsus



The Gospel: Revealed by the Spirit

- World's wisdom
 - Natural person
 - World passing away
 - Non-believer
 - Those who do not have the Spirit
- God's wisdom
 - Spiritual person
 - God is eternal
 - Believer
 - Those who have the Spirit

The Nature of God's Wisdom

- “mystery” or “secret”
- “hidden”
- “destined by God for our glory”
- not understood by the rulers of this age



The Holy Spirit

- Searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us
- Indwells believers
- Teaches
- Matures the believer



Those who do not have the Spirit

- Reject the things of the Spirit
- Things of the Spirit are foolishness to them
- Cannot understand the things of the Spirit

Those who have the Spirit

- Can discern God's ways
- Cannot be judged by those who do not have the Spirit
- Have the mind of Christ

My take-away

- None of us can understand without the Spirit
- The Spirit is the translator, the conduit, of God's heart and mind to believers.
- God has revealed Himself to us in Christ, but it takes the Holy Spirit to "reveal the revelation" to and in believers.
- It's all a gift of grace!!!!



