

The Preaching of the Cross: The “Foolishness” of God Part 3

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Intro: Once again, we see God choosing to use foolishness by the world’s standards to accomplish His will. God uses the “nobody’s” of this world like you and me. God chose the foolishness of the crucified Saviour to save us from our sin. And today we see God uses the “foolishness” of the *preaching* of the cross.

This section of the Word gives us a test by which we judge preachers of the Word as well as guidelines we all should follow as we share the Word of God and the gospel with others. Pay close attention to what Paul is saying:

1 Corinthians 2:1-2:5 “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

1. A Preacher Must Proclaim What God Says – verse 1

- It’s not about entertainment – c.f. II Cor. 10:10; Gal. 1:10
- We must preach the Word with authority – c.f. II Tim. 4:1-4

2. A Preacher Must Focus on Jesus Christ and Him Crucified – verse 2

3. A Preacher Must Not Fear Weakness – verse 3

- Paul was aware of his weaknesses – c.f. II Cor. 12:9

4. A Preacher Must Avoid Manipulating – verse 4

5. A Preacher Must Rely on the Spirit’s Power – verse 5

Questions:

1. In what ways do people go to church to be entertained? Have you ever been guilty of finding a church based on its entertainment value?
2. Why is the word “preaching” often used in a bad context these days? What do people usually mean by that and how are we to avoid “preaching” in that way?
3. Can you think of some ways that people use manipulation in their preaching both public and private? What ought we do instead of manipulation?

Prayer: *“Father, thank you for choosing the foolish things of this world to save and use. Thank you for sending us a Saviour that in the world’s eyes seems foolish too. And thank you that you have chosen through the foolishness of preaching the Word to save the lost. Thank you in Jesus’ name, amen!”*