

## The Preaching of the Cross

091017AM

### 1 Corinthians 1:20-25

- Science & technology have replaced the need for God?
- Psychology and psychiatry have replaced spirituality?
- The Internet has an answer for every question?
- What can God do that we cannot do for ourselves?

#### Self-righteousness Versus the Cross

- The Jews sought a sign – Mat.12:38; 16:1; Mk. 8:11; Lk.11:16... (The ten plagues – Exo. 7:14-12:30; manna from heaven – Exo. 16:4; etc.)
- Jesus did great signs, but not for their entertainment.
- 1 Pet. 2:8 “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”

#### Philosophy Versus The Cross

- The Greeks sought wisdom – Acts 17:21 “For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.”
- Wisdom must come from the right source! Jas. 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”
- We have more important things to occupy our time.
- Eph. 5:15-16 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (CEV - Act like people with good sense and not like fools. These are evil times, so make every minute count.)
- The cross goes against human sensibilities – like the Beattitudes (Mat. 5:4-12), putting the kingdom before material necessities (Mat. 6:33), overcoming evil with good (Rom. 12:21), the Lord's supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26), baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- Worldly wise people reject all of the above.
- That's why the church is the CALLED OUT!

#### The Cross Reminds Us of Things We Prefer to Ignore!

- Rom. 3:23 – Why is it so hard to confess that we sin?
- Even Christians must confess their sins – 1 Jn. 1:9.
- 2 Cor. 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
- Gal. 3:13 – He was cursed so we could be blessed!

#### What is the Power of the Cross?

##### The Power of Salvation!

- 1 Cor. 1:21 “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.” Cf. Rom. 1:16.

##### The Power of Deliverance.

- 1 Thess. 1:9-10 “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” (Col. 1:13)

##### The Power of Reconciliation!

- Eph. 2:16 “...and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”

#### *Decision...*

- Science, philosophy, self-righteousness, and pride, all combined throughout history, cannot save a single soul.
- The cross may seem foolish, it may offend, but no one can be saved without it!
- 1 Cor. 1:25 “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”
- This is the purpose of our upcoming Gospel meeting, and everything else that we do.

## **But Not On Sunday Night** by Gus Nichols

I love the church that Jesus built,  
And know that it is right.  
I go there every Sunday morn,  
But not on Sunday night.

I love to sing the songs of God;  
Such worship must be right.  
And this I do on Sunday morn,  
But not on Sunday night.

I love to hear the Gospel too,  
It gives me pure delight.  
I hear it every Sunday morn,  
But not on Sunday night.

And may God bless our preacher too,  
And give him power and might,  
And put a sinner in my place  
At worship Sunday night.

It's true, the church can save the world,  
If good light shines bright;  
I help it every Sunday morn,  
But not on Sunday night.

Yes, all of us must one day die,  
I hope I'll be doing right;  
So may I die on Sunday morn,  
But not on Sunday night!