



AN IMPERFECT LOCAL CHURCH

A Study in 1 Corinthians

CLASS – Lesson 3

GENERAL OUTLINE

1 Corinthians 1:18-4:21, Human vs. divine wisdom

OUTLINE: Lesson 3

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18-25, The fundamental solution to division: The Cross

26-31, Those whom God has called

In a day where media, internet and technology dominate the world of communication, the gospel often takes a back seat to the latest fads and trends for “doing church.” Churches feel that they *must* use the latest technology and *must* offer the most overwhelming experiences in their assemblies. Preachers are valued more for their entrepreneurial skills and stage presence than their simple presentation of the biblical message. We might wonder how Paul would have fared in our day if he insisted on trusting the power and wisdom of the gospel rather than the “wisdom” and rhetorical devices of the world. How often is “relevance” redefined by the world’s “wisdom?”

DISCUSSION

1 Cor 1:18-25, The fundamental solution to division: The Cross

- 1. How does “the message of the cross” present a stark contrast to the rivalries in the Corinthian congregation?**

Note: Even the apostles (e.g., Paul) keep their authority low key. They tend to plead rather than order.

- 2. Why was a crucified Christ a stumbling block for Jews and foolishness for Gentiles?**

3. What negative responses to the gospel today reflect the same principles as those mentioned about “foolishness?”

4. In what way would remembering that God’s wisdom and power are greater than ours have solved many of the Corinthian problems?

5. Discuss some ways Christ and his gospel represent a form of power and wisdom that causes our world today to stumble and reject his message.

1 Cor 1:26-31, Those whom God has called

6. Whom has God called? Not called?

7. To be counted among the chosen of God, what would the Corinthian Christians have to admit?

8. What was the evidence that the Corinthian Christians were living by the wisdom of the world?

9. Can you think of cases in Israel’s history when the Israelites did the same?

10. Can you think of situations today where we (i.e., churches) reveal a desire to be viewed as other than “foolish, weak & lowly?”