

(1st Corinthians 1:18-31)
“Waking Up To Reality”

~ INTRO ~

(1-Corinthians) a book... that **applies Christianity**...

- So we know how-to live out our faith.
- A book that corrects wrong beliefs.

~ STUDY ~

TODAY...

- Paul turns the stage of learning...
 - In a direction that invites humility.

IDEA #1 – THE DIVISION OF THE CROSS

(v.18) Two-classes of people:

- 1) Those who are **perishing**
- 2) Those who are **being saved**

JESUS PUT IT THIS WAY... (Matt. 10:34-39) NKJV

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be those of His own household.”

OUR FIRST LESSON:

- Division is not the goal of Jesus’ ministry...
 - BUT division is the consequence of his message.
- The truth of the gospel forces a decision...
 - Which results in division.
 - Those who accept the cross & those who reject the cross.

REMEMBER...

- (v.18) is listed in the present tense – it’s happening right now...

(1st Corinthians 1:18-31)
“Waking Up To Reality”

- Based on the real-time choices people make.

EXAMPLE:

(Proverbs 14:1) NLT

*“A wise woman builds her home,
but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.”*

- (v.19) Paul is quoting partially from (Isa. 29:13-14) NKJV
- (v.20) is a paraphrase of (Isa. 19:12) NKJV
 - About the failure of Egypt’s wise men.

POINT BEING...

- God dismantles human wisdom (vv.19-21)
 - By destroying the wisdom of the wise.
 - Jews sought **signs**
 - Greeks sought **wisdom**
 - Neither method brought salvation.

(Rom. 1:16) NKJV

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

(vv.22-25)

- In Israel’s history there were signs God gave:
 - Moses – parted the Red Sea;
 - Elijah – called fire down from heaven on Mt. Carmel;
 - The Prophets – did miracles to confirm God’s word.

WHEN JESUS ARRIVED...

- The religious Jews were expecting three primary things:
 - 1) Political deliverance
 - 2) National restoration
 - 3) Power over Roman oppression

THEY DIDN’T UNDERSTAND...

- That Christ came to die AND take away the sin of the world.

(1st Corinthians 1:18-31)
“Waking Up To Reality”

- They wanted immediate relief from their condition.
 - AND dying on a cross didn't help their view.

IN CORINTH...

- Paul corrects the church from going backwards:
 - **Jews** – “*Prove it with power*”
 - **Greeks** – “*Explain it with logic*”

GOD SAYS... I OFFER YOU DELIVERANCE THRU MY SON!

- The crucifixion of Christ was...
 - Offensive to the proud...
 - Foolish to the intelligent (educated).
 - But it was powerful to those who believe.

THE MESSAGE HE GIVES IS STILL THE SAME...

- At the cross My Son died for your sins;
 - He rose from the grave conquering death;
 - And all who believe in Him will be saved.

IDEA #2 – SAVED BY GRACE NOT GREATNESS

THIS CHAPTER...

- Confronted the issues of...
 - **Pride & division** in the Corinthian church.
- They were impressed with human achievement...
 - And drifted from the power of the Cross.

AS A GOOD PASTOR...

- Paul brings them back to the Gospel of grace.
- God doesn't choose people because of their good deeds.
 - People are chosen because of what they do with Christ.
 - (John 3:20-21) NKJV

(v.30) What Christ is for us:

- *Wisdom* – we don't discover truth... we receive a Person.
- *Righteousness* – we're justified in Christ... not self-made.
- *Sanctification* – we're being transformed... not conformed to world.

(1st Corinthians 1:18-31)
“*Waking Up To Reality*”

- *Redemption* – we’re purchased and freed from the power of death.

~ *IN CLOSING* ~

(1 Peter 5:5c) NKJV

“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

PAUL KNEW FIRST HAND...

- That human pride is the greatest barrier to grace.