
Sermon Notes

April 19, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Wisdom of God 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Trusting God's Wisdom

- ❖ Trusting in God's wisdom is a comfort to all Christ followers in good times and bad
- ❖ Knowing that God is infinitely wise is an invitation to enter into richer, more passionate, heartfelt worship

What Is the Wisdom of God?

- ❖ When Paul writes to the Corinthians, he is addressing people who live in a culture that is in love with philosophy and human wisdom
- ❖ When the Bible speaks of wisdom, it has much more than an intellectual quality in view
 - wisdom is not merely intelligence or knowledge
 - wisdom is also a moral quality that involves the pursuit of the highest purposes AND accomplishes the greatest good
 - all of God's acts are wise
 - there is no better way to do anything God does than the way God does it

- ❖ The Bible also links wisdom with power
 - Job 9:4, 12:13; Daniel 2:20
 - J. I. Packer, "Wisdom without power would be pathetic... power without wisdom would be merely frightening..."
 - God's infinite power is inseparably intertwined with God's infinite wisdom
- ❖ Wisdom sees the end from the beginning
- ❖ There are 3 components to the wisdom of God
 - the power to see
 - the inclination to choose the best and highest goals
 - the power to accomplish those goals
- ❖ A. W. Tozer says wisdom is "the skill to achieve the most perfect ends, by the most perfect means."

God's Means to God's Ends

- ❖ God's wisdom is not, and never was, directed at keeping a fallen world happy or at making ungodliness comfortable
- ❖ In all circumstances, God is at work for the glory of His name and the good of His people
 - God's intention is for His people to find joy in Him and to find joy in what He created
 - God's ultimate objective is to bring His people into a state in which they will please Him entirely and praise Him adequately

- God works to create a reciprocal relationship in which God will rejoice over us and we will rejoice in God
- ❖ God accomplishes His “ends” as He delivers us from sin, puts the power of His love and grace on display in our lives, defends us against the forces of evil, and spreads the good news of Jesus throughout the world
- ❖ God sovereignty and wisely arranges the specific details of each one of our lives to bring about His highest ends
 - Acts 17:26-27
 - God uses trials and difficulties to draw His children closer to Himself and make them more like Jesus
 - nothing “just happens”, everything in our lives is designed for us by our all wise God
 - in His wisdom, God is always working to make something of us which we have not yet become
 - God constantly encourages us to trust Him in the dark
 - “God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick.”
 - Isaiah 45:2-3, Genesis 50:20

The Wisdom of the Cross

- ❖ God’s wisdom is on display not just in the way He ordains the events that lead up to and surround Jesus’ crucifixion
 - God puts His wisdom on display through the power of the cross
 - God chooses what is foolish in the world’s eyes as the supreme way to showcase His wisdom

- ❖ Paul uses the phrase: *the word of the cross* as “shorthand” for the entire gospel message
- ❖ The greatest display of divine wisdom this world has ever seen or ever will see is in salvation
 - to reject the cross is to reject God’s greatest revelation of His wisdom in action
 - only God could have ever designed the plan of salvation
 - in His divine wisdom, God takes the sin of all who trust in Jesus and transfers it onto Christ
- ❖ Human wisdom cannot understand the cross
 - to the natural mind, the cross is offensive and unacceptable
 - but, *to those who are called...* it is *the power of God and the wisdom of God*

Personal Reflection

1. How can meditating on the wisdom of God help you and comfort you when you face difficulties in your life?
2. Are there past times in your life when it seems as if God did *not* choose the best means to accomplish His ends in or through you? How can considering the wisdom of the cross give you a clearer understanding of this time and a renewed trust in God’s plan?
3. How should your everyday decisions be affected as you consider God’s wisdom and the final goal to which His wisdom is directed?