

The Sin City 'Nobodies' (1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Exodus 33:7-23 – Moses, God’s glory, and His back side
 - B. Outline of the message and reading the text
- II. **Every aspect of the Gospel glorifies God (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)**
 - A. *The miracle on ice* – a bunch of ‘nobodies’ win Olympic gold!
 - B. A reminder of the context
 1. The proposition of the epistle - 1 Cor 1:10
 2. The first reason for the dissensions: *a misunderstanding of the Christian message* (1 Cor 1:18-3:4)
 - a. Failure on the part of people to see the power and wisdom of God in the foolish message of the cross (1:18-25)
 - b. Look at those who do receive the message (1:26-28)
 - C. God’s self exaltation in the Gospel is demonstrated by the “nobodies” that He chooses (1 Cor 1:26-29)
 1. *Not many wise, mighty, noble* (adaptation of Jeremiah 9:23-24)
 - a. Repetition of the word “chose” indicates God’s purpose
 - b. He chooses the things which are not, while rendering inoperative the things that are
 2. God always worked this way (creation, Jacob, David, Bethlehem)
 3. A few caveats concerning this text
 - a. *Not many* does not mean not *any*
 - b. We are still “nobodies” (1:30)
 - c. There is no merit in being foolish, weak, or ignoble
 - D. *He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord* (1 Cor 1:31)
 1. Why then does the church boast in man?
 - a. Guess whose coming to Bread of Life next week?
- III. **Preaching the Gospel must glorify God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)**
 - A. This is a rebuke to the Paul-faction
 - B. This is a rebuke to anyone who would modify or adjust their delivery of the Gospel to accommodate cultural norms
 - C. Misuses of these verses
 1. Paul was not an unprepared, incompetent speaker (Acts 14:12)
 2. Paul was not indifferent to culture (Acts 13:13-41, 17:16-31)
 - D. What did Paul emphasize in his preaching?
 1. He proclaimed the testimony of God (2:1)
 2. He preached Christ crucified (2:2)
 3. He preached in weakness (2:3)
 4. He avoided manipulating people (2:4)
 5. He relied on the power of the Holy Spirit (2:5)
- IV. **A Theology of Glory vs. A Theology of the Cross**
 - A. Men seek *glory* – the one thing God will not share (Is 42:8, 48:11)
 1. Glory-seeking will get you into a lot of trouble
 - B. God may only be found at the cross
 1. The cross is the back side of God – it is more than enough for us to glory in (Galatians 6:14)