

Life Group Notes 7th February 2021

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom

What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?

God's foolishness displayed in the Cross of Christ is wiser than human wisdom, so humbly trust God's wisdom for your life rather than your own and seek to grow in God's wisdom through living for Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now don't rush this next bit, but to put everything in context I want you to read the first 3 chapters of 1 Corinthians. Before you read ask the Holy Spirit to speak to people and challenge them afresh. For ease of flow and understanding ask between 1-3 confident readers to read the three chapters either in the NIV or Good News Version (all use the same version). Everyone else encourage to sit with their eyes closed and hands out as they listen to God's word. **Read 1Cor1-3.**

Whilst everyone is still in that place of receiving, remind people that like Paul they have been called with a purpose, set apart for Jesus and graced to belong to God's family, it is His gift to us – 1 Cor 1:1-3. Like the Corinthians despite our many weaknesses we have been tremendously blessed in Christ in every way because of the goodness and faithfulness of God – 1 Cor 1:4-8. That the first thing that Paul addresses out of a list of major sins is division in the church as it is that serious. He briefly speaks into it – 1 Cor 1:10-17, takes a little aside to look at the wisdom of God's plan of salvation that they are now part of 1 Cor 1v18-2:16, before going back to address the issue of division again it is that important – 1 Cor 3. So, before moving on if you have allowed any divisive thoughts against other believers to have a place in your heart just confess that to God. Remember Tom's wedge illustration, starts with just a little thing someone has said or done. Often it is about a leader, the bible says, "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses;" yet our society happily criticises anyone in any position of authority. Titus 3:10-11 says, "As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." **This is serious stuff so take a minute to prayerfully assess your own heart before God. Have you allowed divisive thinking to take root in you, are you allowing a divisive person to speak into your life unchallenged, or worse still have you become divisive in some areas of life? Confess it to God, repent, & ask for His help in this area and protection on the church.**

With this in mind 1Cor1:18 – 2Cor2:16 looks at the wisdom of God displayed in the seemingly foolish message of the cross of Christ and our need to accept it, give witness to it and then grow in knowledge of God's wisdom leading to changed lives. **In what ways does the world today view the message of the Christ Crucified as foolish?** (Outdated, unscientific, uncivilised, unnecessary). Whilst some of you may have some answers to some of these things, the truth is what stops people believing is a heart issue not a head issue. **What things stop you from witnessing to others?** (Fear, think you're not good enough, worried how they will react, etc). You have been called to simply tell others what Jesus has done for you on the cross & is doing for you in your life now, it is up to God to change people's heart!

Finish by praying for an opportunity to share what Jesus has done for you with someone this week (name the person you want to speak to) and pray that God softens their heart to receive the truth?