

"GOD'S SAVING POWER" I

BTT

31 Jan 88

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5

1) GOD'S PURPOSE 1:18 - 25

2) GOD'S PEOPLE 1:26 - 31

3) GOD'S PREACHER 2:1-5

Intro →

NEED → God's Power

- Renew Church

- Revitalize Ministry

Temporary Power - granted to Satan

- "men captured in his snare to do his will" 2 Tim 2:26

- "blinded minds of unbelievers" 2 Cor 4:4

Point of Attack → WORD OF GOD

"did God say...?"

↳ challenge to God's LORDSHIP/RULE

Distortion of Thinking - sin tainted intellect

- "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" Isaiah 5:20

I. GOD'S PURPOSE -

18 God's Wisdom → foolishness

WORD OF POWER → SAVED

- 19 True of Judah during Isaiah's day
C true in 1st cent Corinth
C 20th cent. Uganda

Man cannot find God by his own wisdom

Corinthians → delighted Greek orators,
lofty words, high sounding style

20 What's come of all that?

WISE
SCRIBE
DEBATER

Here's
of
Society

The Fool says in
his heart there is
no God
Prov 14:1

- even the Glory of Greece faded & dried

21 World → No wisdom - No God

"in Christ are hid all the treasures
of wisdom and knowledge"
Coloss 2:3

Yet → God is PLEASED to give
His WORD - SON - SPIRIT

Not to make # Intellectuals → Christians
Enlightenment → Salvation
Brilliance → Belief

22 Out of fashion? archaic?
Even then

Jews → practical, down to earth
SIGNS - EVIDENCE, PROOF
Greeks → philosophical, speculative
WISDOM - LOGIC - REASON

Paul knew his audience well

23 But he knew what they needed MOST
↳ the CRUCIFIED CHRIST

"Preach"! ? No. dialogue, discuss
Jews → Impossible!
Greeks → That's Ridiculous!

DOGMATIC → message DIVINE

Geo. Whitefield to Sleeper
"If I had come to speak to you in my own name, you may as well go to sleep.. But I have come in the name of the Lord God of hosts - I MUST and I WILL Be heard!"

24 Paul Knew the POWER of the WORD

GOD'S PURPOSE to save through the WORD

Jesus - "I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and THEY WILL HEED MY VOICE" Jn 10.16

Faith comes by HEARING, hearing by the WORD OF CHRIST Rom 10.17

GOD CALLS Jews + Greeks through the WORD to CHRIST

25 WISER / STRONGER than MEN

Word - "Sharper than any 2 edged sword"

"like fire, and like a hammer

which breaks the rock in pieces" Jer 23.29

Paul to Thessalonians -

"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." 1 Thess 2.13

II GOD'S PEOPLE 1:26-31

↳ example of God's saving Purpose

1:26 God's Standards are Not Worldly Standards

Knowledge, Power, Nobility

- all elevate men in society

- "not many" in God's Kingdom

- level ground at foot of cross

"sinners only - great + small"

27 Too BAD - God is left with REJECTS
GOD CHOSE - foolish

weak

low and despised

28 ↳ to shame world - Bring it to Nothing

Paul to Corinthians - Divided, Angering, Proud

"your ARMS are Too Short to Box w/ God"

29 NO ROOM FOR BRAGGING

"He saved us, not because of deeds done in righteousness, but because of His own mercy." - by Grace are we saved -

v. 30 BOAST in CHRIST

"Source of life"

"our wisdom"

→ In Christ the believer is as close as possible to his Lord

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" Eph 1.3

WISDOM

↳ Righteousness, Sanctification, Redemption / Consumation

→ Salvation

Past - Present - Future → In Christ

31 Christ is something to boast about

III God's Preacher 2.1-5

Clergy tell others they could not be saved by their own righteousness, but ASSUME THEY CAN BY THEIRS.

DANGER → Deadly Pride in Ministry

2.1 "I, EVEN ME -"

Paul's preaching - example of God's Saving Purpose

≠ "lofty words"

ie Philosopher, Orator, Impartial Reporter

← WITNESS → What God has done in Christ

"We have seen with our own eyes, we have looked upon and touched with our own hands - we proclaim also to you" 1 Jn 1.1-4

≠ 5 different opinions on this or that text

↳ Gripp'd by one truth
Struggle to make it known

2.2 Preaching PASSION → Spoke His Beloved "Jesus the Crucified" (not past only)

John saw → "Lamb Standing as though slain"

"Decided" - ≠ limited knowledge

Paul → best educated in 1st Century

Reason for confidence in flesh →

4
983
"Whatever gain I had I counted as loss for the sake of Christ" Phil 3:7

≠ Change of strategy after "defeat" by Athenian Philosophers

X - Paul preached → TEMPLE
" → AEREOPAGUS ≠

→ UGANDA OF TODAY

"Nothing except Jesus" →
↳ everything we need for life

KEY to SCRIPTURES - disciples / Emmaus

"He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" Luke 24:27

"the Scriptures" Jesus to Pharisees
"bear witness to me"

2.3 "foolish message in weakness and trembling"

"Do the best we can", but know "unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain"

2.4 Did not imitate the clever Corinthian orators

Present GOD'S WORD about GOD'S SON
trust GOD'S SPIRIT to work

- nothing more profound than the simple Gospel

"NOT ASHAMED OF GOSPEL" → Jesus, cross
IT IS POWER FOR SALVATION

→ Danger of Pride, Praise of men
- Praise God, but really praise me!

"No preacher can bear witness to Himself
and to Christ at the same time"

"O Lord we thank thee for our brother,
Now blot him out! Reveal thy glory to
us in such blazing splendor that he
shall be forgotten"

Work of SPIRIT says JESUS → "He will glorify
me, for he will take what is mine and declare
it to you" John 16.14

Billy Graham
on preaching
"I have often felt like a spectator, standing on the side,
watching God at work. I have felt detached from it. I wanted
to just get out of the way as much as possible and let
the Holy Spirit take over."

125 So that he might not build on any
foundation except Jesus Christ.

Trust Clever Arguments

< more clever ones

Profound Oratory - more profound

"FAITH Rest in Power of God"

GOD'S PURPOSE

↳ Saving Power in Foolish Word

Not trust in Chairs, Buildings, Gimmicks

GOD'S SAVING POWER

HIS WORD proclaiming

HIS SON revealed by

HIS SPIRIT

Ministry measured \neq how much praise
- repentance and obedience