

1 Corinthians 1.26-2.2

The Whole Christ

THEME: “Go Deep” > Maturity, Wisdom, Faithfulness, Understanding

WANT to Go There > WONDER HOW? What do WE DO? HOW can we do It?

Up Earlier – Control Thoughts – Better Choices – Work Harder - Community

Church in CORINTH One of MOST SHALLOW ever Founded by Apostle Paul

Blessed & Gifted > Proud & Arrogant > Smug & Self-Satisfied

Celebrated Sins even Notoriously Perverted Corinthians found Unacceptable

So PAPA PAUL writes Corinthians Kids a Letter we call 1st Corinthians

As UNROLL Scroll to Read: All Corinthians on ZOOM grew Quiet & AFRAID

Pretty SURE Dad GOING Off on Them > Big Time Rebukes and Reprimands

INSTEAD Begins with Glorious Declaration of “Totus Christus”: St. Augustine

Latin > ‘Whole Christ’ – title of book by one of my fav prof’s Sinclair Ferguson

Let’s Hear GOD’S Word to US thru Paul’s words to Corinth....

1 Corinthians 1.²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” ^{2.1}And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1. Fullness in Christ > *Whoever God is and Whatever He gives is in Jesus*

2. Freeness in Christ > *Whatever we Receive from God is in Jesus*

3. Fruitfulness in Christ > *Whatever we Become for God is through Jesus*

1. Fullness in Christ > *Whoever God is and Whatever He gives is in Jesus*

Strange Land encounter LOTS of Different Foods, Customs > RELIGIONS

How can share JESUS w/ Neighbors & Colleagues BELIEFS Never Encountered

Keep it SIMPLE > Only 2 Religions in World

1st Huge: LOTS of Different Rituals, Holy Books, Traditions, Leaders, Legends

All Differences & Distinctives BIG Religion > Summarized 2-Letter word > DO!

Other Religion – LESS People > Gate Narrow, Way Hard > 4 Letters > DONE!

Spoken by One DID IT – Arms Stretched Cross: Finished, Paid in Full, DONE!

Primary Life Application Followers: **‘It’s Not About You’**

Deny Yourself, Pick Up YOUR Cross, Follow RISEN Master

Theme Song NOT *‘I did it MY WAY’* but ***‘Worthy is the Lamb who was Slain’***

GREAT NEWS SALVATION DONE > Mission Statement Chief Spokesman

2.2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

v. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Righteousness: Right Standing before God / Sanctification: Moral Cleansing

Redemption: Freedom from Bondage to Sin & Death because He Died for Us

Justification is the main hinge on which religion turns...unless you first of all grasp what your relationship to God is – and the nature of his judgment concerning you – *you have no foundation on which to build piety toward God.*

John Calvin

v. 24 Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

“every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Him” Ephesians 1.3

How DESCRIBE a Follower of Jesus?

Obvious Answers: Christian, Believer, Disciple, Born-Again, Saint

ALL GOOD – Found in Bible ---- NOT Often

NT teaches ‘Christian’ INSULT from World > used by Outsiders

‘in Christ’ - Description used over 100 times by Paul — UNION with Christ

Most Common NT Idea – Vine/Branches – Head/Body – Living Stones/Temple

TERM emphasizes CONNECTION btwn JESUS and Benefits He GIVES

“The benefits of the gospel are in Christ. They do not exist apart from him. They are ours only in him. They cannot be abstracted from him as if we ourselves could possess them independently of him.”

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

What CHANGES when you Disconnect Benefits from Benefactor?

1) For the preacher: “How can I offer these benefits?”

2) For the hearer: “How can I get these benefits into my life?”

When understand Christ and his benefits are inseparable...

1) For the preacher: “How do I preach Christ himself?”

2) For the hearer: “How do I get into Christ?”

ONLY Important DIVISION in Human RACE -

v. 18 those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved

Grace is not only the great unifier but also the great leveler in the Christian community, which if taken seriously nullifies the importance of all cultural devices used to create social stratification. Ben Witherington

2. Freeness in Christ > *Whatever we Receive from God is in Jesus*

CORINTH eagerly Stirred FADING EMBERS of Greek Philosophy & Wisdom
 Wise – Scribe – Debater of this Age had FOUND their New Home in CORINTH
 IF Saved by OUR Wisdom > Make ORE PROUD of OUR Accomplishments

v. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong

World had many Teachers > But URGENTLY Needs a SAVIOR, REDEEMER
 God will NOT Find a REMEDY for Sin that makes us MORE SINFUL

A god that we THINK is Wise is PROJECTION of Us > Exalt OUR Standards
 Aren't WE WISE to THINK of Such a God & Such a PLAN of SALVATION!

v. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

Jews STONED VICTIMS > Then HUNG them on TREE to Show Judgment
 Hung on a TREE, under God's CURSE / Cross: ROME'S Tree of CURSING
 Roman CITIZEN > NEVER Crucified / Scoundrels, Outsiders, No Status World

God turns WISDOM of the WORLD on its HEAD > FIRST will be LAST

CROSS is Jesus' CORONATION > KING coming to SAVE Sinful People
 GOD Redeems and Rejoices in OUTCASTS, Lepers, Prostitutes, Beggars, Blind
 Takes FOOLS like Me, All my Limitations, Sins, Ignorance, Be Son / Servant

“What conditions were met in us in order for God to send his only Son into the world to die for sinners? None. Indeed there can be none....The offer of the gospel is to be made not to the righteous or even the repentant, but to all. There are no conditions that need to be met in order for the gospel offer to be made...

‘I do not offer Christ to you on the grounds that you have repented. Indeed, I offer him to men and women who are dead in their trespasses and sins’...

If you're only willing to offer the gospel to people who have made themselves eligible for it, then you'll be left with no one to offer it to at all.”

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

vs. 30,31 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

We are not called to preach doctrine, the benefits of the gospel, or the promised blessings of God; we are called to preach Christ crucified. Jesus Christ is the gospel. Preaching Christ involves doctrine, the benefits of the gospel, the promised blessings of God, all of which are summed up in him. The order cannot, and must not, be reversed. Anything and everything abstracted from Jesus Christ is distorted and corrupted...they will invariably twist and avoid the genuine gospel message in favor of distortions such as legalism or antinomianism.

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

2 EXTREMES in our RELATIONSHIP to GOD and His LAW

DIVIDE MUCH of World > Too MUCH Law and NOT Enough Law

LEGALISM: Heart of DO Religion > Heart REMAINS in Us AFTER Saved
Rules to Keep – Points to Earn – Praise to Receive – Positions are Awarded

INDIVIDUAL and CORPORATE Legalism

INDIVIDUAL: I set Standard – Measure Self by It – Criticize those who Differ

Corporate: We set Standard – Measure Others by It – CANCEL those who Differ

INDIVIDUAL and CORPORATE Legalism – DIVIDES Churches & Nations

ANTINOMIANISM: ‘to hell with your rules...don’t tell ME what to do!’

NOMOS – Gk = LAW --- ANTI! LAW – No Rules, Restraints > FREEDOM

LEGALISM & ANTINOMIANISM > Estranged Twin Sisters from Same Womb

Legalism and antinomianism share the same root. Eve disobeyed God because she suspected He was forbidding her too much and permitting her too little—her legalistic view of God drove her antinomian rebellion against Him.

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

ONE Leads to OTHER > BOTH come from SAME Critical, Grumbling Heart
 BOTH have the SAME SOLUTION > GOD our Father, Creator, Savior

See Legalism and Antinomianism in 2 Sons Jesus describes in Luke 15

Younger Son > ‘Hey Dad, to hell with you and your rules, give me your money’

Fun of Lawlessness leads to Loneliness, Hunger > Back Home by Legalism

‘Hey Dad, I need a JOB...I am really hungry!’

Older Son > ‘Hey Dad, I been keeping your rules, but I never even got a GOAT!’

‘I am OUTTA Here – Not interested in Welcome Home Party for BAD Son’

2 Sons show LINK btwn Legalism/Antinomianism TWINS from Same WOMB
 EVIL Womb > Fail to DELIGHT in Loving Father – Find Joy in God & GRACE

FATHER Goes to Both Sons – Rebellious & Religious – LOVING Invitation

Call to Relationship NOT Rituals – Delight Not Duty – Sonship Not Slavery

Book of Common Prayer “in your service is perfect freedom”

“There is only one genuine cure for legalism. It’s the same medicine the gospel prescribes for antinomianism: understanding and tasting union with Jesus Christ himself....“When we behold the glory of Christ in the gospel, it reorders the loves of our hearts, so we delight in him supremely, and the other things that have ruled our lives lose their enslaving power over us.”

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

3. Fruitfulness in Christ > *Whatever we Become for God is through Jesus*

Corinthian church often Disappointed their Father – on Earth and in Heaven

Corinthian Christians COME to Jesus but Corinth NOT Come Out of them Yet

Still SHAPED More by their SOCIETY than by SCRIPTURE

More COMFORTABLE in CORINTH than CONFORMED to Image of Christ

Often think HOLY LIFE starts with changing EXTERNAL Behavior >

STOP Bad Things, START Good Things

TRUE that is Part of HOLY Life > but NOT the MAIN Part

BIGGEST Problem Not on OUTSIDE but on INSIDE >

Heart of the Problem is the Problem of the Heart

“The human heart has so many crannies where vanity hides, so many holes where falsehood lurks, is so decked out with deceiving hypocrisy, that it often dupes itself.”
John Calvin

Last Friday procedure Electric Shock on Heart to correct Irregular Heartbeat

We will NOT Truly KNOW God until he does Massive Heart Surgery on US

REMOVE Heart of STONE and REPLACE with a Heart that is SPIRIT-FILLED

Real GOING DEEP happens when MOTIVE is DELIGHT Not DUTY

But Both Fathers of Corinthian church > Full CONFIDENCE in their FUTURE

Reason for Confidence was NOT Corinthians but CHRIST...

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1.4-9

Young Palestinian, Jewish Carpenter, No University Degree, No Ordination

Arrested – Stripped – Beaten – Mocked – Brutalized – Nailed to Cross – Died!

CROSS? – 1 of MOST HIDEOUS Forms of TORTURE invented by Fallen Man

Wise & Powerful God turns GROTESQUE Event to His Way of SALVATION

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1.18

“The essence of legalism (and antinomianism) is rooted... in a distorted view of God as the giver of his law....an assault on both God’s generosity and his integrity. Neither his character nor his words were to be trusted. This is the lie that sinners have believed ever since (Eve in the Garden) —the lie of the not-to-be-trusted-because-he-does-not-love-me-false-Father. The gospel is designed to deliver us from this lie. For it reveals that behind and manifested in the coming of Christ and his death for us is the love of a Father who gives us everything he has: first his Son to die for us and then his Spirit to live within us....

Sinclair B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

v. 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God

v. 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

LOVE CONSTRAINING TO OBEDIENCE by William Cowper, 1772

1. No strength of nature can suffice
To serve the Lord aright
And what she has, she misapplies,
For want of clearer light.

2. How long beneath the Law I lay
In bondage and distress
I toiled the precept to obey,
But toiled without success.

3. Then to abstain from outward sin
Was more than I could do
Now if I feel its power within
I feel I hate it too.

4. Then all my servile works were done,
 A righteousness to raise
 Now, freely chosen in the Son,
 I freely choose His ways.

To see the Law by Christ fulfilled,
 To hear His pardoning voice,
 Changes a slave into a child
 And duty into choice.

"Empty Me Out" by Liz Vice, 2013

Empty me out / Fill me with you
 Lord there is nothin' / I can give to you
 I lay down my life / Here at your feet
 You give me life / So completely
 Now, I... I died with you / Was buried with you
 The moment I believed
 And I... I rose with you / Ascended with you
 Into the heavenlies
 Lord, it's not me / It's you inside of me
 And Jesus, You're all / These eyes can see
