

The Message is Foolishness?
1 Cor 1:18-20
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how those who claim to be “wise” in the world regard the message of God as foolishness.

Intro: 1. What do we mean when we say wisdom? Do people today believe earthy wisdom is all they truly need (**1 Cor 2:1**- Paul had spiritual wisdom not earthy wisdom, **1 Cor 2:2**)
2. Why do some many people today believe that the gospel is foolish?
3. We will see how earthy wisdom is not the wisdom we should desire, if we want to know God we need spiritual wisdom.
4. Because people today are “wise” in their own minds they often reject the message of the Bible as foolishness.

I. The Word is rejected by the “wise” of this world (**v.18a, Jer 4:22**)

A. **Psalms 50:14-17**

1. The wicked, unlike the wise see no sense in the gospel.
2. They cling to there worldly wisdom and because such they perish in their sins (**Lk 13:3,5**).

B. **Psalms 119:155**

1. Those that are wicked are those who allow their earthy wisdom to separate them from God.
2. The world could not know God through their earthy wisdom (**v.21a**).
3. Those that rely in other wisdom will face the wrath of God (**Isa 30:12**)

II. To Christians, those being saved, the “foolish” message is the power of God (**v.18b**).

A. **Jeremiah 6:10**

1. Those that think themselves to be wise and beyond the need of God are truly lost!
2. The problem with so many today who think they are “wise” is that they are over confident in their own abilities. They act and speak as if they have no need for God and that whatever comes there way they are more than able to handle it (**Isa 47:10**).

B. **v.21b, Pro 26:12,**

1. God used the “foolishness” of preaching to convey the message to man.
2. It is sad that what man sees as foolish, is exactly what man so desperately needs, the gospel!

III. Where are those “wise” people? (**v.20**)

A. What happens to the “wisdom of the wise”?

1. The wisdom the world seeks is unattainable, the real knowledge they need is the knowledge of God (**Ecc 1:17-18**).
2. God will be the one who reveals the false-wisdom of this world (**Isa 44:24-25**).

B. What happens to those whose faith and knowledge has been in God?

1. The spiritually wise seeks not earth wisdom but spiritual wisdom-righteous wisdom (**Job 28:28, 32:7**-wisdom takes time)
2. There is only one place to find wisdom today – God’s Word(**2 Tim 3:15**).

Conc: 1. What about you? What kind of wisdom do you have or desire to have

(**Pro 2:6, Pro 4:7**)?

2. If you desire the wisdom of God, are you willing to reject the “wisdom” of this world to obtain it?
3. Full Invitation