

Meditations on the Message

Sunday: January 17, 2016; Gospel Community

Text: **1 Corinthians 1:17-31**

Re-read the above text and consider the following thoughts and questions:

Everyone who has been set apart to belong to God, everyone who has called upon the name of the Lord (1:2), everyone who is being saved by the power of God (1:18) - they have all believed the message of the cross. They believe that through the cross God was reconciling sinners unto Himself through the acceptable and sufficient payment of His Son and they have placed their full confidence in Jesus.

- When did God recruit you to be one of His? When did you hear the message of the cross and believe the good news?
- How did embracing the message of the cross influence your thoughts, attitude, and behaviors?

The message of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved, it is the power and wisdom of God.

- How did the message of the cross go from being "folly" to you - to being the wisdom and power of God? What effected that change?
- Knowing that the message of the cross is either "folly" or "wisdom," what do we know about the response of people we tell about Jesus? How is that challenging to us?

The gospel catches most traction among the common, ordinary people...not the wise, powerful or influential. Jesus, speaking to the Pharisees, said that the pimps and prostitutes were entering the kingdom of God before they were.

- How are the grossly immoral more ready recipients to the gospel than morally upright?
- What are the barriers to believing the good news for the wise, powerful and influential?
- If everyone enters the Church (God's family) through trusting in the merits of another (namely Jesus), then everyone one gets in the same way. Therefore Bill Gates has no better opportunity than the man living under the overpass. How should this influence our thoughts and attitudes toward each other in God's family?
- How does God receive the glory when the influential person, or the homeless person, believes the good news?
- What would be the result of the whole Church doing what Paul instructs in verse 31?