

- ii. To know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified is to say that Paul was knowing Jesus in His sufferings, but not in His resurrection... not yet.

- B. For us to know Jesus Christ crucified means...
  - i. That we must bless those who persecute us.

- ii. 1 Corinthians 13:2, 4-8

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Discuss this statement: As Christians we often embrace the wisdom of this age as it suits us as to engage in cultural battles rather than embracing the wisdom of the Cross. What does this say how we engage more than the content of it?
- What is more important: the Supreme Court decision this past week or how the church responds to it? What might it look like to respond with trust and faith in God vs. fear? Or to respond with evil vs. love?
- How were you effected by the quotes at the beginning of the sermon from Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand?
- Why is practical wisdom difficult to apply in trying to understand our calling to take up our cross and follow Jesus?
- Can you think of times you were correct in what you were trying to convince someone of but wrong because of how you were attempting to win the argument? Explain.
- Are you living according to the Wisdom of the cross? What does that look like? Are there times you do *and* times you don't live according to the pattern of the Wisdom of the cross?

## The Cross as a Pattern for Wisdom

Jerry Cisar — June 28, 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:10

### Introduction

- A. Tortured for Christ, Richard Wurmbrand

*Living according to the pattern of the cross is only possible if we begin thinking according to the Wisdom of the cross, and that thinking is not natural for us, it is spiritual and requires the Spirit's help to accomplish.*

- B. The cross must define Wisdom for us, and the cross is the pattern for...

### I. A Foolish Wisdom (1:18-25)

- A. Defining Wisdom
  - i. Let's be practical.
  - ii. But how exactly do you use wisdom or be practical in going to a cross?
    - a) We must be careful not to use "wisdom" to keep us from embracing Wisdom!
    - b) Let's be practical, means, "that sounds foolish!"
- B. Distinguishing Wisdom
  - i. Wisdom from Knowledge
  - ii. Wisdom of this age from the Wisdom of God

iii. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

## II. A Hidden Wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:6-8)

A. The Wisdom of the Cross is not the wisdom of the rulers of this age.

i. Who are the rulers of this age?

ii. This age, the unredeemed world around us, has its own wisdom. (v6)

B. The rulers of this age are coming to nothing... but not yet!

i. When?

ii. Their final dethronement awaits them in the next life.

iii. What seems so significant now will be nothing – of no power – then. What seems so insignificant now – the church, the truth, our lives – will be so powerful then as we reign with Christ.

## III. A Planned Wisdom (2:9-10)

A. The cross is the “what” which no mind could conceive.

B. God prepared the cross for our benefit.

i. God's Wisdom still prepares things in which the rulers of this age appear to triumph over God. One day they will be confounded when it is shown that their very acts are playing into God's victory.

ii. The cross was not an exception to how God normally works, it *is* how God normally works!

## IV. A Wisdom We Must Choose to Know (2:1-5)

A. Paul decided to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified while in Corinth.

i. This knowing effected both **what** and **how** Paul preached while there.

a) 1 Corinthians 9

b) 2 Corinthians 10:10

Dan Allender: *Leadership that mimics Jesus will not be normal. It will be neither expected nor, in most cases, preferred...Here is God's leadership model: he chooses fools to live foolishly in order to reveal the economy of heaven, which reverses and inverts the wisdom of this world. He calls us to brokenness, not performance; to relationships, not commotion; to grace, not success. It is no wonder that this kind of leadership is neither spoken of nor admired in our business schools or even our seminaries.*