The Word of the Cross

Ken Chapman · 1 Corinthians 1:10–25

INTRODUCTION

- Your estimation of those who preach the gospel is probably largely based upon how you feel about the word of God.
- These divisions along party lines that lined up with different preachers, Paul says is not the way it ought to be.
- The one who's delivering the message is not the important one. But it is the message itself.

1 A Single Message, Not to Be Divided

1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 1:11–13

- Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you.
- We live in a time in which religious division is the norm.
- But that has never been God's plan. That has never been accepted by God.
- The other alternative is to be students of the word. Is just say, what does God say about this? And that's what we'll speak.
- The only acceptable way that we can speak the same thing and be of the same mind and the same judgment is if we make the agreement that judgment is going to be centered around the word of God.

2 Not Conditioned by Men

1 Corinthians 2:1–5; Acts 14:11–12; 2 Corinthians 4:5–7

- This message is one that is not man centered. It is one that is text centered.
- My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- And Paul, they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.
- Paul is not apologizing for his lack of ability to eloquently deliver the word of God. He is saying, this was my intentional approach.
- I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.
- We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

3 A Single Message With Dual Effects

1 Corinthians 1:18–25; 2 Corinthians 2:14–16

- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.
- We preach Christ crucified. To the Jews, a stumbling block, and to the Greeks, foolishness.

- The word of God not only creates a dual effect, not only makes a distinction between its hearers, but the word of God was intended to do so.
- If we alter that message, then the word that we preach ceases to do what God intended it to do. Make a distinction.
- To the one, we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other, the aroma of life to life.
- The difference is not in the message, but in the heart of the listener.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So, how do you view that gospel message? Is it life? Is it power? Or is it foolishness and death?**

MY NOTES