

Preaching the Gospel in a post modern age

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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1 INTRODUCTION

In our introduction last evening we have already indicated that our faith in Jesus Christ and our faith in the Bible as God's Word are challenged. We have said that it is a result of the new paradigm of Post modernity. But is this challenge really new. And should we give consideration to this challenge of faith?

2 SCOPE: FAITH CHALLENGED

3 PARTES:

3.1 There is a division between lost and saved (v.18)

- Ω If the gospel is nonsense to you, you will be lost
- Ω If it is God's power, you will be saved

3.2 What seems to be the problem?

- ⇒ Scholars gather wisdom
- ⇒ Wisdom causes skilful debate (v.20)
- ⇒ Debate cannot bring knowledge of God (v.21)
- ⇒ Why is this? God made it impossible (v.19)
- ⇒ God deliberately wanted to shame the wise and powerful (v.27-28)
- ⇒ Paul's readers is an affirmation (v. 26)

3.3 What is the alternative?

- † Not philosophy like the Greeks want (v.22)
- † Not miracles as proof (v.22)
- † God's method is faith in the crucified Christ (v.21c)
- † Even though the cross is offensive or non-sense (v.23)
- † It is God's power and wisdom (v.24c)

4 CONCLUSION:

So, you cannot be saved by being philosophical or by having a position of power. That would make you a saviour of your own soul. But you cannot save yourself. There is no merit. You and I are saved by grace, through faith and that faith is a gift of God.