THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:1–2:5

Key Verse: 1:18

1. How does Paul introduce himself? (1:1) What did it mean to be “an apostle of Christ Jesus”? Why “by the will of God”? Who was Sosthenes? (Ac18:17) What does Paul say to his audience? (2,3) What does “church of God” mean? Why does he stress their being sanctified, holy, and part of a much larger Christian community?
2. Why is Paul thankful for them? (4) What grace were they given? (5) What does he mean in verse 6? What else does he say about them? (7) What hope does Paul have for them, and how can he be sure of it? (8,9)
3. What is Paul’s appeal to them? (10) How can we “be perfectly united in mind and thought”? What were these believers quarreling about? (11,12) What rhetorical questions does Paul ask, and why? (13) Why did Paul not emphasize baptism, and what can we learn from him about gospel ministry? (14–17)
4. Read verse 18. What contrasts does Paul make here? Why would the message of the cross be “foolishness” to some? What does it mean that it is “the power of God”? What does God do, and why? (19) What other questions does Paul ask, and why? (20) What does he say about God’s way of working? (21)
5. What two groups does Paul describe, and how do they react to the message of Christ crucified? (22,23) How do those God has called experience this same message? (24) What does this show about God? (25) How does Paul remind them of God’s way of working? (26–31) How and why does he describe his own ministry to them? (2:1–5)