

Home Bible Study Guide: BBC – 4/14/24 – “The Power & Wisdom of the Cross” – 1 Cor 1:18, 23-24

2024 Church Theme: “We preach Christ crucified... the power & wisdom of God.”

Paul received reports of divisions in Corinthian church: partisanship (Paul, Apollos, Peter, Jesus) & cultural pressures (Jew/Gentile)

- *Do we experience Church divisions in our day? What unity ideal did Paul exhort the Corinthian Church to strive for?*

Paul affirms he was sent to preach ‘the Cross’ (1:18), which is foolishness to the *perishing*, but God’s power to the *saved*.

- *Why does God delight in confounding the wise & mighty through “foolishness,” and the weak, the base, & despised?*

The Wisdom of God:

Gal 4:4-5 – In the “fullness of time” God sent Jesus Christ into the world to redeem and adopt sinners.

- *What was meant by the “fullness of time”? According to the succeeding kingdoms of Daniel 2, when was Jesus sent?*
- *What was the character of the Roman Empire (Dan 2:33 “legs of iron”) of Jesus’ day?*
- *What was the state of the world, Israel, and Rome at the time of Jesus and the early Church?*
- *Why would God choose a period of darkness, wickedness, corruption, violence, to send Jesus and launch His Church?*

The Power of God:

The innocent Jesus, unjustly prosecuted and condemned to be crucified between two rightfully condemned guilty criminals crucified on either side of Him, is a “snapshot” of all earth’s humanity, and the power of God’s redemption.

- *When Jesus was hung on the Cross, where were His disciples? ...what was the attitude of the two thieves (Matt 27:44), and the observing public, the religious leaders, and the soldiers, towards the condemned Jesus (Luke 23:35-37)?*
- *In light of Isa 41:26 & Rom 3:10, 23, what do the two thieves/“malefactors” crucified on either side of Jesus represent?*

In history’s darkest moment of time, when God’s Son hung on the Cross, something happened to one of the two thieves.

- *In light of Luke 23:39-42, what indication is there that this thief repented, confessed, and expressed faith in Christ?*
- *What was Jesus’ response to the repentant thief, as recorded in Luke 23:43?*

In the lowest moment of the darkest time of history, only one of the two thieves who had equal opportunity repented.

- *What message does this send to all of mankind in our day?*
- *What responsibility do we, His Church, have to proclaim the message of redemption through Christ?*

Our Day in Our World:

It’s indisputable that we’re living in a “*perilous time*” that is only increasing in demonic-inspired wickedness (2 Tim 3:1, 13)

- *In contrast to the dark era when God decided to send Jesus and launch His New Testament Church, are we to despair?*
- *In light of such Scripture passages as Joel 2:23-24 & Rom 5:20, can we identify our dark time as a great opportunity?*