

“Wisdom, Humility, and Power”

1 Corinthians 1:17-25

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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“If there’s anything in life that we should be passionate about, it’s the gospel. And I don’t mean passionate only about sharing it with others. I mean passionate in thinking about it, dwelling on it, rejoicing in it, allowing it to color the way we look at the world. Only one thing can be of first importance to each of us. And only the gospel ought to be.”

C. J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life*,
Multnomah Publishers, Sisters, OR, 2002, pp. 20-21.

CBC is committed to the Gospel because it...

1. Leads to godly wisdom.

(1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

2. Brings about humility and gratitude.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

“God’s salvation springs from God’s grace, and it is received by those who trust him—not by the ‘beautiful people’ or by the rich and powerful.”

D. A. Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*,
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, MI, 1993, p. 31.

3. Allows us to tap into the power of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

“At the cross, we see that God is both wise and powerful. The world is filled with people who think they are smarter than they really are. Such people think they know how the world works and what should be done to fix it. These people are attracted to such arenas as politics, religion, psychology, and philosophy. They delight in airing their critiques of the world and their answers for how to fix it on everything from talk radio to blogs. But since most people do not believe we are sinners, their ‘wisdom’ is really folly because they can never get to the real source of all the trouble in the world and, therefore, have no real solution to truly help people.”

Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears, *Death by Love*,
Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 243.

“God’s ultimate reason for this choice is of utmost importance: it is ‘so that no one may boast before him’ (1 Corinthians 1:29). Not only has he shamed and nullified the world by choosing so many people whom the world does not highly esteem, God has taken this step to shatter human boasting. God acts to redeem fallen men and women because he is gracious, and for no other reason. He does not owe anyone in the world forgiveness and eternal life. If he gave out these wonderful gifts on the basis of a formula worked out by the immigration departments of many countries—the more education, skills, sophistication, and wealth you have, the easier it is to get in—then many of those who come to know God by faith in Jesus Christ would have a legitimate ground for boasting. But God takes the action he does ‘so that no one may boast before him.’”

D. A. Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*,
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, MI, 1993, pp. 30-31.

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