

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. Jan 28thth 2008

Our Story : A foolish Story I Corinthians 1: 10 -25 (2 1-5)

Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon



Divisions (a tearing apart, rending, or ploughing of a newly sown field) in the church in Corinth resulted from different groups following their preferred teacher/preacher/apostle. Paul addresses the stumbling block for this division their continuing pursuit of the worlds wisdom (Sophia)<this was recognised in the forms of logic, reason and rhetoric and in this context refers to how the message was presented God's story (the Gospel = good news) .They are concerned with logos (words) that are to do with this kind of wisdom (Sophia) They should rather be concerned with the content of the story the Logos + Jesus himself (John 1.. in the beginning was the word.. Genesis 1: 1-2 God spoke) the Logos who was initiator of creation and who came to be amongst us (Word became flesh – John 1) . What is his story ?.. it is foolishness says Paul. For where do we find Logos ?.. Not in rational argument but born in a manger and hanging on a cross. The promised hope, Messiah, saviour, God's very self executed, dead and buried. An anathema that any god should be killed and complete foolishness to the Jewish and Gentile minds. The Jews knew about God's agenda from the prophets to set them free, to send a messiah, but they had no comprehension of His strategy for that. His son sacrificed on the cross was not what they expected. Only God can achieve their salvation. Only he can reveal himself to them. And he did and he does.

The most that humanity can do is set up gods they worship which reflect their own falleness and who need to be appeased. God (verse 21) ,however , 'was PLEASED. through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe' . (c.f the Father running to receive his son home in the parable of the Prodigal) .This foolishness of Christ's death on the cross is God's power . Life , eternal life is given when the Logos, the word of God, the Son of God has died and is then raised (Jesus taught this pattern in drawing a comparison with a seed needing to fall to the ground and die before it can produce fruit). This can only be achieved by God's hand. And his hand alone.This is wisdom.



Witness:Questions to discuss

1. What is God's agenda for the human race ?
2. We are thinking globally ,Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan etc How can we (in St Pauls) participate in God's agenda?
3. Where is there a places for reason and strategic thinking in following God ?
4. What story would God tell about you ?
5. Can you take a few minutes to summarise Gods story about you to one another ?
6. How do you see your existence ? As a result of God's power, of the Cross. Or as a result of your own thinking doing nad being ?
7. When have you felt the Gospel story is foolish ? Is it ?
8. Use Chap 2 1-5 as a mediation and prayer.