

The Appeal Of The Gospel

1 Cor. 1:18-25

Introduction:

- A. We seem to be always struggling to gain and keep people.
- B. We are often tempted to match or beat the competitions attractions.
 - 1. Dynamic personalities with one equal or more so.
 - 2. Dynamic programs with one equal or more so.
 - 3. Appealing facilities with one equal or more so.
- C. We need to remind ourselves of the facts about the gospel that Paul outlined to the Corinthians:

Discussion:

I. The Gospel Message Does Not Have Universal Appeal. (1:18).

- A. Appealed neither to Greeks nor Jews.(1: 21-26).
 - 1. Not philosophical enough for the Greeks.
 - 2. Not sensational enough for the Jews.
- B. Appealed to spiritual minds rather than carnal minds. (3:1-3).
 - 1. Did not need to make gospel fit minds.
 - 2. Did need to make minds fit the gospel.
- C. Appending it for wider appeal would have destroyed its effectiveness (1:17)
- D. Appealing to some while appalling to many.
 - 1. The message about salvation.
 - 2. The message about the church.
 - a. It's structure.
 - b. It's worship.
 - c. Its work.
 - 3. The message about godliness. (cf. Tit. 2:11, 12).

II. The Gospel Message Is Designed to Glorify God Rather than Men. (1:27-31).

- A. It was so designed by God's wisdom. (1:21).
- B. It was so preached by Paul. (2:1-5).
 - 1. Preached to impress the message rather than wisdom or ability of messenger.
 - 2. Preached to establish faith in the power of God rather than wisdom of men.

III. The Gospel Message Is Superior to the Devices of Men. (1:25)

- A. Will stand the test of time and eternity. (1:19-20; 2:6)
- B. Immature carnal minds cannot see this truth. (2:6, 14-16).

IV. The Gospel Message a Revelation Rather than an Experimentation. (2:6-16).

- A. Cannot know what pleases God without revelation. (v. 11,16).
- B. Cannot know "things which God has prepared for those who love Him" without revelation (v. 9, 13).

Conclusion:

- A. Should we transform the gospel and the church to conform to carnal minds?
- B. Or, transform minds to conform to the gospel and church as it is revealed to us? (cf. Rom. 12:2)