

9-9-17

THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING

Inspiration records a very interesting statement regarding gospel preaching in 1 Corinthians 1:21: “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” If one removes this verse from its context he may conclude that the Bible is telling us that preaching the gospel of Christ is foolish. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. Verse 18 explains, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Preaching salvation through Jesus Christ may seem foolish to those who refuse to believe it, but to those who believe, it is the means of gaining the necessary knowledge to be saved from the bondage of sin. The Bible further emphasizes this truth in the words of Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Notice that the power of the gospel is only effective for salvation when one chooses to believe the gospel. What separates the believer from the unbeliever? A genuine believer will obey the gospel of Christ, thus receiving the benefits of its power to save. True believers exercise their faith in obedience to what the gospel instructs one to do to receive the forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus “is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus asked this searching question, “But why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). The saving gospel specifies what Jesus requires for salvation: Faith in Him (John 8:24), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession of faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and baptism into His death for the remission of sins (Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:38).

As long as sin and evil exist in our world there will be the need for the power of the gospel of Christ and thus the preaching of that original gospel. That is why the Green Plain church of Christ conducts regular worship services where the gospel is preached. It is also why two gospel meetings are conducted each year in which the gospel is proclaimed. One such series of meetings begins tomorrow, September 10th and continues each evening through the following Thursday. Our elders have invited Luke Puckett, preacher at the Coldwater church of Christ, to preach to us the saving gospel. Sunday services are at 10 am, 10:45 am and 7:30 pm. Monday – Thursday services are at 7:00 pm. We invite each reader to come and be with us. We promise that you will hear only the original gospel of Christ without addition, subtraction or modification. Remember, the gospel is God’s power to save YOUR SOUL!!