

# What's Wrong with Preaching These Days?

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**INTRODUCTION:** *“A preacher who made his congregation shake with fear . . . ”*

## I. ST. PAUL WARNS AGAINST THE “WISDOM” OF THE AGE

A. This wisdom empties the Cross of its power and leads us from God to men (v.17)

+ *The seminary preaching class field trip to area churches: no Christ crucified*

B. The Cross is to be at the center of preaching, not this wisdom (vv. 10,13,17)

C. The wisdom of this age is destroyed by the preaching of the Cross (vv.18-19)

1. The wisdom of God is Christ crucified (vv. 20-25)

2. Faith rests on the power of God (the Cross), not on the wisdom of man (2:1-5)

+ Consider everything “cross-shaped” we do in worship

+ LSB #761 Rock of Ages (verse 3)

+ LW #878 Abide with Me (verse 6)



## II. ST. PAUL WARNS THAT INDIVIDUALISM AND ELOQUENCE CREATES DIVISIONS

A. The Corinthian congregation was split over baptismal allegiances (vv. 10-15)

B. All Christian congregations must focus on Cross-content, not on individuals or style

+ Christ and His work:

The subject of every sermon and the focus of every effort

+ The Law and the Gospel:

Where the Cross comes into clear focus

**CONCLUSION:** *The Pompeii entry: “Found faithful”*