

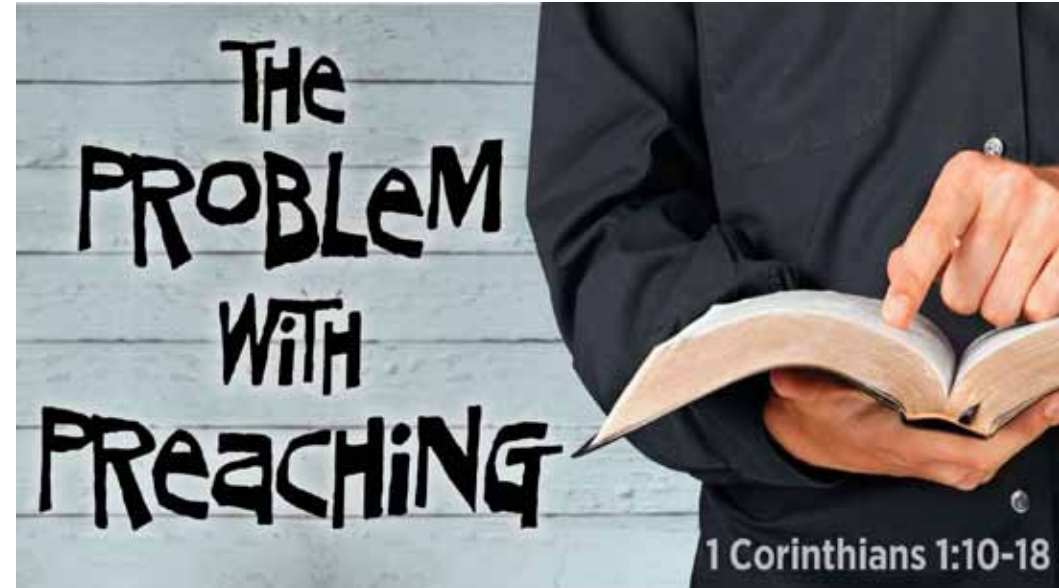
“THE PROBLEM WITH PREACHING”

(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.18-19)
- 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
 - + Consider hymns like - #761 *Rock of Ages* (verse 3)



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
 - 1. Christ and His work: The subject of every sermon and the focus of every effort
 - 2. The Law and the Gospel: Where the Cross comes into clear focus

CONCLUSION: *The Pompei sentry: “Found faithful”*