

The Silly and Weak Dividing Line

1 Corinthians 1:1-18-25

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

I. Introduction (1:1-9)

II. Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)

a. Divisions (1:10-4:21)

i. The Problem of Division Denounced (1:10-17)

ii. Clarifying the Nature of the Message (1:18-3:4)

A. The Gospel is Powerful, Whether Men Realize This Or Not. (1:18)

Transition from 1:17: the reason that the gospel does not need added wisdom is because it is a powerful message all on its own.

TWO COMPETING "WORDS"

v17 - "not with wisdom of words"

sophia logou

literally: wisdom of word

vs 18 - "the message of the cross"

ho logos ho tou staurou

literally: the word of the cross

v18 – Paragraph Thesis: A person will see the gospel as _____ until he or she believes it.

B. God is unreachable without God. (1:19-21)

v19 – God will always prove the _____ of human wisdom apart from Him.

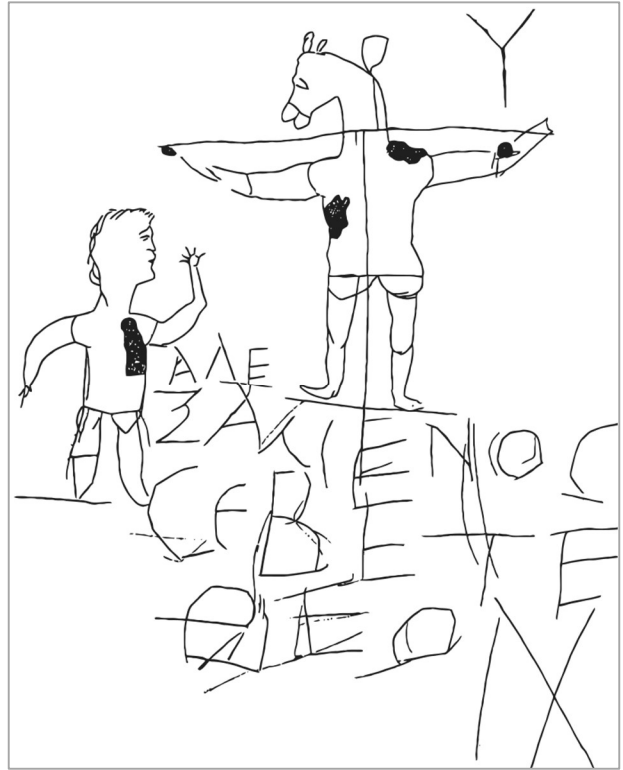
v20 – Nobody has any wisdom of which to _____ about.

v21 – The gospel message, as _____ by God, destroys the wisdom of the wise with its power to save lost men.

C. We Bring God's Message Despite Opposition. (1:22-25)

v22 – The unsaved person _____ see the gospel for what it is.

v23 – The saints _____ what is seen as silly.



The Alexamenos graffito, estimated 200 AD

v24 – The saints know that this _____ of “Christ crucified” demonstrates unparalleled wisdom and power.

v25 – In summary, upon believing the gospel, a person will _____ that whatever men achieve apart from God is futile and the gospel itself highlights God's wisdom and power.