

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16 What Fools! (Coalface 11) Fintry, 4/12/2005, am

- A Church at the Coalface is one where....
we insist on the foolishness of the Cross

Made to look a fool?

- Have you ever been written off?
- Made to feel foolish, silly, smally, inconsequential?
– Sidney Michaelson story?
- Have you ever had the **gospel** written off, laughed at, "You don't believe **that**, do you?"
– certainly true if you read many newspapers - only fools believe in Christian fundamentalism!

What is success?

- Money?
- Intellect?
- Emotional stability?

We preach Christ and him crucified

It is offensive - emotional barriers - Jews (1:22-23)

- Need to admit we are fools!

It doesn't make sense - intellectual barriers - Gentiles (1:22-23)

- Need to take step of faith

It is God's wisdom! (1:24-25)

- My pinkie is stronger than Peter's thumb... at the moment!
– my weakness is stronger than his strength
– weakness of God is stronger than man's strength
- Physics - even my crudest, simplest explanations of stuff like the Sun and planets to the boys are "wiser" than their understanding... at the moment!
– my foolishness is wiser than their wisdom
– God's foolishness is wiser than man's wisdom

BUT: We rest on the Cross

- If that isn't our heart-beat, we are dead!
- If we do up the halls next door, have a cafe.... and don't have the cross of Christ at the centre, we are fools - not in the world's eyes, but in God's!
- So weakness and fear should be expected! (2:3)
- What is the Cross?
– we are sinners, failures, and our only hope is in Christ on the Cross in our place
– no other hope, no other good, no other wisdom, no other religion...
- Will we resolve to know nothing of the faith except Christ and him crucified?