

# Welcome to Holly Hills Bible Church

Service to start  
at 10:20 AM

<sup>22</sup> *For indeed Jews ask for **signs** and Greeks search for **wisdom**;*  
<sup>23</sup> *but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block** and  
to Gentiles **foolishness**,*

- ✓ God's way of revealing Himself and blessing man is equally offensive to both **Jews and Gentiles**.
- ✓ The Jews looked for or required a “**sign**”,
- ✓ The Gentiles looked for **philosophic reasoning that appealed to the mind**.
- ✓ God appeals to the **conscience** and **heart** through Christ crucified.
- ✓ This, however, was a **stumbling-block** to the Jews and **foolishness** to the Gentiles.

# The cross of Christ is always the subject of offense

- ❖ **Christ reigning on a throne** a Jew could understand:
- ❖ **Christ crucified** on a Cross was an offense to them.
- ❖ To the Jew in their unbelief it became a stumbling-block.

# To tell a Gentile there was salvation

- through a crucified Man,
- **life** through a dying Man,
- **power** through One Who was crucified through weakness.
- to the Gentile, that is mere **foolishness**

*<sup>24</sup> but to those who are **the called**, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***

- The preaching of the cross is God's appointed way of reaching the lost with the message of His infinite grace.
- God has set all aside in the cross, the wisdom of the world and the religion of the world.

- His *wisdom* is seen in the solving of the problem how God can remain **just** while being, according to the compassion of His heart, **the Justifier** of the sinner.
- His *power* is set free to act in behalf of all who believe on Christ as their Savior; and, when therefore set free, He will not stop short of the satisfaction of His measureless love:
- He will present the saved one in glory, conformed to the image of His Son.

God had called the Corinthians Himself, and the result was that Christ was precious to them as the wisdom and power of God.

# Looking at the Kinds of People Found in the Corinthian Church Directory

*<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brethren, that there were*

*—not many*

*—wise according to the flesh,*

*—not many mighty,*

*—not many noble;*

**The flesh must glory in something, either birth or riches or intellect: but in the presence of God neither believer nor unbeliever can glory in these things.**

- ❖ To glory in them only shows how little time we spend in the Lord Jesus' presence.**
- ❖ This is all basic to God's manner of dealing with man on a grace basis without regard to man's merit or failings.**
- ❖ No matter how hard we try to impress God and make Him shower more favor towards us because of our works, He only deals with us on the unlimited and unmerited basis of grace.**



# Those Who Did Make Up the Corinthian Church Directory

*<sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,*

*<sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,*

This is a PURPOSE clause. It answers questions like

**Who did it and Why did He do it?**

He chose the foolish things of the world to put shame on the wise men.

He chose the weak things of the world to put shame on the strong things.

Who are the included ones that God has called?

He has chosen *the base things...and the despised.*

With the words *the things that are not*, we have reached the bottom

*noble is eugenias, meaning high-born;*

and *the despised is agenias—no-born !*

The glory of the gospel is that God's mercy extends to those whom the affluent tend to write off.

- If God called nothings to the fellowship of His Son, to be one with Him now, to reign with Him soon and forever,  
**whose grace is that?**
- If the wise and powerful and nobly born were for the most part left in their possession and pursuit of all which blinded them to the glory of Christ on the one hand and to judgment on the other,  
**whose sin was this?**
- But how unworthy and inconsistent that the Christian should yearn after or glory in flesh and its advantages!

- God has chosen this method so the glory might be His and His alone.
- How wrong then to glorify His messengers!
- Glorifying here has the idea of putting one's full confidence in some inappropriate object to secure ourselves.