

## ***CLOSING THE GAP***

### **Longview FUMC Lenten Bible Study**

#### **Week 3: FOOLISHNESS and WISDOM – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

**Theme/Focus:** Christianity struggled to be taken seriously by adherents of Judaism and Greek Philosophy. What they deemed as important criteria (Signs and Wisdom, respectively) for validity conflicted with the essence of Christian Faith. Even today, Christianity is attacked as illogical, inconsistent, or irrelevant. Atheists and agnostics challenge people of faith and embrace secular philosophy, relativism, fatalism, or (isolated) science as more enlightened paths. We are challenged at the core of our identity and understanding as Christians. Even within Christianity, some hold only to moral guidance, rather than full embrace of our faith.

#### **Related Scriptures:**

**2 Corinthians 5:11-6:10 – Obstacles, Dichotomies, and Reconciliation**

**Galatians 2:15-21 – Jews and Gentiles Saved by Faith**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-16 – Proclaiming Christ Crucified and the True Wisdom of God**

**1 Corinthians 3:16-23 – Disputes, Humility, and Godly Leadership**

**Romans 12:1-5 – New Life in Christ**

**John 16:16-24 – Conflicting Perspective with the World**

#### **Questions:**

- How does it feel to be characterized as foolish?
- How are you challenged by others for your faith?
- Where do you struggle to understand and embrace the Christian Faith?
- How do we overcome hesitancy due to confusion or challenge?
- What is helpful to keep us on track in following our faith?
- When have you felt close to God?
- How has closeness to God blessed you? How has it challenged you?
- Have you been challenged when making a commitment to Christ?

**NEXT WEEK: Read Ephesians 2:1-10 – Closing the Gap: GRACE and GOOD WORKS**