

They say he who plans early plans often. I was planning this sermon series back in the summer. And I didn't know that I would be doing pulpit supply over in Warrens to help out with their call meeting, so it just so happens that you're now going to be joining in on the second in our sermon series in 1 Corinthians.

If you wanted to, you could check out main street living. Com and they would have that first sermon recorded for you to watch if you'd like. I will give a short overview of what we were talking about last week.

The sermon series is called ship of fools and it is focusing on how the Church is often imperfect, and the world can also make the Church seem like it is a ship of fools even though we are endowed with the wisdom of God. Last week, we talked about being tied to the mast. It was on 1 Corinthians 1 talking about how the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. As you sit in your pews you look up and see that the part of the church where we sit is called the nave which is Latin for boat. We are sitting in the boat and the Church is Christ's boat, the rescue plan for the world, yet the problem is that the boat is upside down. It appears as though the boat has capsized.

Oftentimes, we see a church that is imperfect. A Church filled with sinners doing things that don't help the Gospel mission—things that don't assist the furthering of God's forgiveness being proclaimed to the world. What's the solution? Looking to the foolishness of the cross, God chose what the world might consider foolish to save the world, His Son dying for the sins of the world and rising again. As Christians we can know that we are going to struggle with our sinful nature all the days of our life, so we tie ourselves to the mast—that is, we tie ourselves to the message of the cross.

Today we're talking about a favorable wind. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE "FAVORABLE WIND" WHICH GUIDES CHRIST'S CHURCH.**

So first, we consider I. The "Favorable Wind" preaches Christ crucified. We're dealing with 1 Corinthians 2, and we recall the fact that the word Spirit πνευμα can be translated various ways in Greek. πνευμα is where we get pneumonia or pneumatic drill, having to do with air, wind, or breath, anything having to do with air is often referred to as πνευμα. Paul is talking about πνευμα, the holy πνευμα. The Holy Spirit.

As we consider sailing themes, every sailor wants a favorable wind to make for smooth sailing. The Holy Spirit gives us that smooth sailing. We see that Paul as he went throughout the Mediterranean, he would preach the message of Christ and a lot of his missionary journeys would involve sailing.

He was at the mercy of the wind. Sometimes the wind was favorable; sometimes there were storms. One time when there was a storm and Paul's ship capsized, Paul ended up on Malta unexpectedly, but despite that small island, he

was able to share the Gospel message and to this day the island of Malta is known for Christians.

Paul writes, **“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”**

We as Christians need to be tied to this message of the cross. It is the wisdom of God, it is the power of God, not simply human wisdom that might draw a crowd, but a humble message of God suffering and dying and rising again for sinners. This first paragraph of our text helps us recap what we were talking about last week.

What can we as Christians, who often sin, who are imperfect, who have a church that is not the best witness to the Gospel as it could be, how are we guided? II. The "Favorable Wind" teaches the wisdom of God. And so we see the spirit is teaching Christ's Church.

Paul writes, **“For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”** But Paul says through the Word of Christ, through the Holy Sacrament, through being baptized into the faith, we do have the mind of Christ. This mind of Christ is that favorable wind that we call the Holy Spirit who is indeed the third person of the Trinity. Through the Holy Spirit we know what God wants of us. We know what God has done for us. We know God's desires for us.

And we are taught through God's Word. We are taught through the Church, not simply to be a ship of fools, but to be something more. We are taught by the mind of God Himself. A secret hidden wisdom taught and thought of before the ages began, even when the Spirit of God was floating over the waters before creation. The Holy Spirit had a plan to save you.

Not only are we taught, we teach others. Having the mind of Christ, having the Spirit of Christ, we can clearly and boldly proclaim the way of God.

Lastly, as we consider the ship of the church guided by a favorable wind, we realize that we are Christ's Church bought and purchased by His blood, forgiven, washed, cleansed, and then guided by the Holy Spirit. Our last thought this morning III. The "Favorable Wind" drives fallible sailors.

The difference we want to draw upon this morning is the two ways humanity operates. Paul has been comparing and contrasting all throughout our Epistle Lesson. There's the natural man and the spiritual man. Paul uses these two words to compare and contrast those who believe in Christ, and those who don't. Those who are Christians and those who aren't.

I think that it's important to understand it's not a material difference. If you were to take a microscope and look at our cells and our bodies, we would have no

different bodies than an unbeliever. The point is not that we're made of natural things rather than spiritual things. The difference is what we're driven by.

I went to UW-Madison and anyone who knows Madison, an important part of that campus is Lake Mendota which spans the entire north end of the campus. Many days were spent along the lakeshore path biking to class, walking to church, or running.

I would bike past boats that were on the lake. I want to highlight two boating clubs at UW-Madison. Two organizations: the rowing team and the sailing club. The rowing team would have a trained team of eight men in a rowboat all rowing at max power, and yet even the best rowers can't much go much faster than 14 miles an hour. On the other hand, one man or one woman in a sailboat on a good day could sail faster than eight men simply having the sail take the wind. It took much less effort and much less struggle to outpace a trained team of rowers.

Paul writes, **“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”** Indeed, to someone who has only ever used a rowboat, a sailboat might seem like foolishness or folly to them. So too do unbelievers view the Church. But we are driven by a favorable wind. We are driven by the Spirit.

You can go wherever you want in a rowboat no matter which way the wind blows. But the catch is that a sailboat is beholden to the wind. The speed and direction would be dictated by which way the wind was blowing.

As Christians, the biggest struggle we have is that we're no longer in a rowboat. We're no longer a natural man or woman driven by our own selfish desires. We are driven by the mind of God. We're driven by the Spirit of God which is going to give us new desires and even take us in directions we never thought possible. But the Spirit has a much better plan for our lives than we could have ever imagined.

Yes, as we the Church work together to advance the Kingdom, there may be ways that the Holy Spirit is calling you to live that go against your impulses. It might mean giving up a bad habit. It might mean giving up a hobby or perhaps some of your free time in order to pursue life with God learning from the Spirit through His Word.

This life as a preacher is not what I had in mind fifteen years ago, but the Spirit guided me on a path that is way better than other future I could have imagined, not that engineering is a sinful or bad career.

We as Christians are guided, tugged along by the favorable wind. And God simply calls us to let down our sails so we can go with Him. It is through Christ alone working through the Holy Spirit to teach us Spiritual truths that we can be good witnesses to those around us. Amen!