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MISSION MAGAZINE



Faith and Justice
The Moderator's Message

ON SEEKING OF Signs & Wisdom

FOR JEWS DEMAND SIGNS AND GREEKS
SEEK WISDOM BUT WE PREACH CHRIST
CRUCIFIED A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE
JEWS AND FOLLY TO THE GENTILES -
BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED
BOTH JEWS & GREEKS - CHRIST THE
POWER OF GOD & THE WISDOM OF GOD.

These words come from The Epistle Reading
for this Third Sunday in Lent.

On first hearing them - they sound like a
put-down of signs and wisdom.

They sound at first like

"Shame on you for ~~needing~~ signs,
shame ~~on you~~ for longing for wisdom."

But then you read on to find that
what is being commended is

The Power of God

+ The Wisdom of God

It is just that - these are not recognizable at first
sight.

Or to put it another way

The problem is not our needing signs
or longing for wisdom

But that we ~~don't recognize~~ take the wrong way to
wisdom

I am sure there are occasions in all of us when our longing for wisdom is to be thoroughly approved. g.

Now good ^{IT wants to} to get to the bottom of all that.

~~weaker~~ have all about.

When we ~~watch~~ loved ones ~~hard~~ ~~watched~~
 & bleed lines that don't come together right.

How good it would be to know what would help.

One of the Bible words for God is WISDOM
one of the Bible words for Christ - is Word and Life

It is ^{to this} Longing for the Word of God - that the Passover & Word of Christ is addressed.

We are perhaps less likely to likely
to think of ourselves as demanding signs.

But the truth of the matter is that we are
always coming to some conclusion or other because we take
something to be a sign of something else.

I take this to be a sign that you don't love
me any more. I take that to be a sign that
you can't be trusted — or that you can be
trusted. I take the day of stormy weather
to be a sign that tomorrow will be clear.

— If my reading of a weather sign
proves wrong — then next will be much loss
— but if a sea trip was the result of
the conclusion I have next be a great loss.

When it comes to ~~the~~ conclusions we make
about the nature of ultimate reality. — a great
deal is at stake — when it comes to
what we trust for our creation & safety — a
great deal is at stake — what are we
going to ~~trust~~ for "signs" of where the power is,
what is to be trusted? Signs ~~mean~~ nothing but
Gimmie a Sign — no idle cry

Now Do the Biblical writers look upon it
as either an idle or a shameful cry.

Hebrew Scriptures —

Evening of Sorcery of & evil — might powerful Sign
— but good — the End that Excell
— Sign to an understanding of character of God

Christian Scriptures - ~~field~~ resistance to ~~signs~~ signs
 & pointing to Signs

clue seems to be →

Signs - something you caught on to
 afterwards; — not usually given
 as a test,
 e.g. Temple cleansing →

What is at issue —

Don't recognize the true signs
 Signs of whose the Power & Glory of God is
 less like stumbling to us

What is at issue —

is that the window appears to
 us as foolishness?

What is the Sign that Israel was having
 to do with the true God?

— Israel's ups & downs

— Gift of the Law — Take the measure
 of that stuff — it gets to take the measure of you

What kind of Sign would ~~point~~ indicate —
 that the Cross of Christ is the Power of
 God & the Window of God,

What kind ^{sign} would he clue to the fact that
 the Power of God to deal with humans is
~~not~~ to be found under it,
 in seeing it,

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Have you recognized any such signs lately in

I must confess that the most compelling sign I have seen recently I came upon in Bois Wilson's Report of her Ambassador's visit to some of the more victimized people of the world.

I want to read some ~~lines~~ lines she wrote about her trip to South Korea →

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There's a sign that the Power of God to Deal with human sin is to be found Bringing it.

