

## The “Foolishness” of God Part 2: A Crucified Christ

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1 Corinthians 1:18-1:25 *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”*

### 1. The Message of the Cross is Foolishness... to those who are perishing

- a. The message of the cross has turned the wisdom of man into foolishness- vs. 19-21
  - God has made it *impossible* to know Him through human wisdom
  - God has made it possible for Him to be known only through faith in the message of the cross

This is God’s amazing design- He didn’t arrange it so the gospel saves those with only higher IQs, the wealthy, the educated, the beautiful.

- b. The message of the cross does not meet the expectations and demands of most people, therefore they refuse to believe- vs. 22-23
  - The Jew demanded signs
  - The Greek looked to human wisdom

### 2. The Message of the Cross is the Power of God... to us who are being saved

I Cor. 1:24-25

- The message of the cross will never be popular, but it is powerful!
- The message of the cross must never be replaced by human wisdom- plans, programmes, mission statements, etc.
- The message of the cross destroys all human pride
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**Questions:**

1. Throughout the ages, the very symbol of the Christian faith has been an image of a device of execution. Why do you believe this image has been so cherished and appreciated by believers?
2. In your own words, what ways is the cross deemed “foolish” to the world today? How was Christ a “stumbling block” to the Jews? How was Christ deemed foolish to the Greek? Do these responses apply to people today who hear the message of the cross?
3. *Read the words (or sing together) the following hymn:*

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Prayer:** *“Father, thank you for that wondrous cross. In Your Divine wisdom, you decreed that salvation would come through something despised by and deemed foolish by the world and its wisdom. Yet, we know through that cross came our redemption. Through the cross, you ransomed us from sin and were our total payment for sin. May I never be ashamed of or change the message of the cross. Thank you, in Jesus’ name, amen!”*