

**“The Message Of The Cross”**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**  
**Good Friday April 22, 2011**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

**Note how Paul describes this message:** 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 23

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

The Plan of God, Was The Cross. Jesus was God’s Sacrifice for the Sins of the World. John 6:51

**Substitutionary Death of Jesus** – “the reconciliation of sinful humanity to God through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ” 1 Cor 15:3

The basic principle was the substitution of one life in the place of another! The Purpose: Atonement – At-One-Meant

Paul writes to the Church at Corinth which was A Divided Church: 1 Cor 1:12

Church at Corinth was a Defiled Church:

Church at Corinth was a Disgraceful Church: 1 Cor. 6

Church at Corinth was a Proud Church:

“In Corinthians Paul makes clear that God’s wisdom is so wonderful and so difficult to understand that man mistakes it for foolishness. Man thinks that it is silly what the Gospel declares.”

**1. Verses 18-21 – God’s Remedy:**

**2. Verses 22-25 – Man’s Decision:**

**3. Verses 26-31 – God’s Instruments:**

**1. Verses 18-21 – God’s Remedy:**

1 Cor 1:17

Paul’s Commission Was To Preach The Gospel: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,”

The Cross is God’s Witness to Lost Humanity!

Attitude of the lost: 18 – “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness,”; literally “silly, nonsense”

Why do those who are perishing consider the "Word of the Cross" Foolishness?

Do the perishing doubt that Jesus died on the cross and was raised?

Peter proclaimed on the day of Pentecost! Acts 2:22-24

Do the perishing think they are not sinners?

Attitude of the Saved: "but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Romans 1:16

19-20 – Emptiness Of Human Wisdom: 1 Cor 1:19 Paul quotes from Isa. 29:14

WISDOM – This word is used 8X in the passage.

Wisdom – the proper application of truth; "Hands on application of that which is right!"

1 Cor 1:20-21

Divine Wisdom –

Col. 2:3-4

Human Wisdom –

God's Remedy Through Preaching: "God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

## **2. Verses 22-25 – Man's Decision:**

1 Cor 1:22

"For indeed Jews ask for signs," – Matt. 12:38-39

1 Cor 1:23

God's Solution To Man's Lost-State/Rejection: "but we preach Christ crucified,"

The Jews: "to Jews a stumbling block,"

The Jews stumbled over it because Jesus wasn't the kind of Messiah they wanted.

John 1:11

Jews Wanted Signs of Power & Success.

Jews Had a False Concept of Salvation.

The Greeks: "to Gentiles foolishness,"

22 – "Greeks search for wisdom;"

Acts 17:21

Greeks had a different concept of salvation.

1 Cor 1:24-25

### **3. Verses 26-31 – God's Instruments:**

1 Cor 1:26-27

"foolish" – Greek word moros; we get the word "moron, dull or stupid";  
"God has chosen the stupid, moronic, things of the world"

1 Cor 1:28

"We learn that our usefulness is not derived from our position or our abilities, but rather from His presence in our lives."

1 Cor 1:29

(N.L.T.) Eph. 2:8 – "God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."

9 – "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.'

"In Salvation, It is the grace of God, Or God Gets No Glory!"

1 Cor 1:30

Romans 3:10-12

1 Cor 1:31

Jeremiah 9:24

## **Application:**

Rom. 8:32

1. All Humans Are Born Sinners, Separated from God: Rom. 3:23
2. Our Sin Has Earned us Deat: Rom. 6:23
3. Jesus Loves Us and Paid for Our Sins: Rom. 5:8
4. Salvation Comes Through Confession and Faith in Jesus Christ: Rom. 10:9-10