

**"The Word Of The Cross"**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**  
**Good Friday April 19, 2019**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 – "the word of the cross"**  
**1 Corinthians 1:21 – "the message preached"**  
**1 Corinthians 1:23 – "we preach Christ crucified,"**

"The Gospel Which I Preached" – **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

**God's Plan Involved 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 Corinthians 15:3.**

**The basic principle was the substitution of one life in the place of another! The Purpose – Atonement** – "At-One-Meant"; The entire OT sacrificial system of Israel was based upon substitution.

The OT worshipper brought a sacrifice, laid his hand on the head of the victim and confessed their sins over it (Identifying with it), thus transferring their sin to the substitute.

**Thought Of The Passage:** "God's Wisdom Is So Wonderful And Difficult To Understand That Mankind Mistakes It For Foolishness."

**1. Verses 18-21 – God's Wisdom**  
**2. Verses 22-25 – Man's Choice**  
**3. Verses 26-31 – God's Instruments**

**1. Verses 18-21 – God's Wisdom:**

1 Corinthians 1:18 – "For the word of the cross" – this is what Paul left off with. The message was centered in God, not Man. 1 Corinthians 1:17

Paul Was Commissioned To Preach The Gospel: "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,"

"The Cross" – is God's Witness to The Lostness of Humanity!

Attitude Of The Lost: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – "foolishness to those who are perishing," – Literally, "silly, nonsense."

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

Heart Of The Problem – The perishing fail to see themselves as sinners!

Attitude Of The Humble: “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” – Romans 1:16.

“Gospel” – Simple But Powerful; Surely the greatest manifestation of God’s power!

Verses 19-20 – Emptiness Of Human Wisdom: 1 Corinthians 1:19 – Paul quotes from Isaiah 29:14.

“Wisdom” – used 8X in the passage. Wisdom – the proper application of truth. “Hands-on application of that which is right.”

1 Corinthians 1:20 – Paul gives a challenge to the possessors of so-called worldly wisdom.

“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” – the answer is YES!

1 Corinthians 1:21 – Wisdom has but 2 sources:

Divine Wisdom – The truth and its proper application of it! The insight from God in doing so. Colossians 2:3

Human Wisdom – Humans do not know how to handle truth. We don’t know how to sort through and determine what is right and then what to do!

God’s Remedy To Man’s Lostness: “God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached”

“to save those who believe.” – Faith in God the Son, Jesus, who died in our place; buried, raised from the dead; the proof that the Father accepted the sacrifice!

## **2. Verses 22-25 – Man’s Choice:**

1 Corinthians 1:22 – “For indeed Jews ask for signs,” – All throughout the ministry of Jesus, the Jews asked for signs to be performed by Him. Matthew 12:38-39

“and Greeks search for wisdom;” – The Greek people were responsible for bringing in all the philosophies of their day.

1 Corinthians 1:23

God's Solution To Man's Lost State Is The Gospel: "but (In Contrast) we preach Christ crucified,"

The Jews: "to Jews a stumbling block," – Jews did not want a Savior that suffered. They wanted a victorious Savior that came to overthrow Rome.

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

When Jesus came, Israel rejected Him. John 1:11

Jews Had a False Concept of Salvation. They thought that the way to salvation was through their own righteousness.

The Gentiles: "to Gentiles foolishness," – How can a man that died bring forgiveness?

1 Corinthians 1:22 – Greeks search for wisdom; They had produced men like Socrates, Plato, & Aristotle.

Socrates said, "The secret to a successful society is education."

Acts 17 – Paul came to Athens. Acts 17:21

Greeks had a different concept of salvation. The Greeks believed that all souls are immortal (True). Therefore, when you die, you automatically go to be with the gods (False).

"Why does anybody have to go to a cross and die? We're all going to be saved anyway."

1 Corinthians 1:24-25

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

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 – "but God has chosen the foolish things of the world" – This word "foolish" – Greek word "moros," we get the word "moron," dull or stupid; "God has chosen the stupid, moronic, things of the world."

"to shame the wise," – "to put to shame."

The wise of this world cannot understand how God changes sinners into saints, and the mighty of this world are helpless to duplicate the miracle.

“the weak things,” – “the base” (“low born”); “to shame the things which are strong,”

1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 1:29 – “so that no man may boast before God.”

(N.L.T.) Ephesians 2:8-9

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

1 Corinthians 1:30

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus,” – Romans 3:10-12.

“Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God;” – What is that wisdom? – “and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,”

1 Corinthians 1:31 – This is a quote from Jeremiah 9:24.

### **Application: Romans 8:32**

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