

## Celebrating the Resurrection

### The Foolishness of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

1. **The Word of the Cross is the Salvation of God** (v.18)

The cross of Jesus Christ is a common way in which the New Testament writers refer to Jesus' completed work of salvation and the redemption of sinful man (Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:17; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20; 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24).

2. **The Word of the Cross is Foolishness to Men** (v.18)

In accordance with grace, God has made salvation wholly unattainable through the work or wisdom of man (1 Cor. 1:21; cf. Ecc. 1:17). Because of this, God's wisdom is accounted as foolishness by those who are perishing (cf. 2 Cor 4:3-4).

A. **Foolishness of the Message** (vs.18, 21)

The Jews expected a savior in the Messiah, but they were expecting a conquering prince and not a crucified preacher. The word of the cross is either the corner stone upon which your hope is built or it is the stone supreme of offense that you cannot overcome (Deut. 21:23)

B. **Foolishness of the Means** (vs.17, 21-23)

While gentiles also found the message of a crucified Jew to be foolish, the fact that the message was presented by plain preaching was offensive to their rhetorical and philosophical standards of wisdom.

C. **Foolishness if it is Mistaken** (1 Cor. 15:13ff)

If Christ did not rise bodily from the grave as the Scriptures predicted (Ps. 16:10) and proclaimed (1 Co. 15:4) then God does not keep His word, Jesus was not the sinless substitute for men, and we are still in our sins.

3. **The Word of the Cross is the Power of God** (vs.18, 24)

The message of the cross is trustworthy (1 Tim. 1:15), and when a person believes, it is the power of God for their salvation (Rom 1:16). It is through the word of the cross that God takes those who are dead in their sins and makes them alive with Christ (Eph. 2:5).

4. **The Word of the Cross is the Wisdom of God** (v.24)

The wisdom of God is on display in the plan and work of God in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for sinful men. In His wisdom, through the cross, sin was treated with justice while the sinner is the beneficiary of mercy (2 Cor. 5:21).