

God's Wisdom is Hard to Fathom

1 Corinthians 1:17-25

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**I. The message of the cross. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18**

Those who reject Jesus Christ think the idea of being saved through the work of a \_\_\_\_\_ man, is pure foolishness.

- **Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways \_\_\_\_\_ than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. NKJV**

The message of the cross is the message of the Gospel (Gospel means good news), because it is good news that Jesus provided a way for sinful man to escape the \_\_\_\_\_ due for their own sin.

**II. God's wisdom; man's wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:19-21**

*"The disputer of this age was the man who wanted to dispute every issue and solve it by \_\_\_\_\_ reason."* (Harold Mare)

- It is not that the preaching of the Gospel is foolish, but rather, it \_\_\_\_\_ foolish to those who are perishing! **1 Corinthians 1:21**

What Paul is saying, is that the wisdom of man cannot \_\_\_\_\_, or understand God, and how His salvation works. **Romans 1:20-22**

**III. The sin of unbelief. 1 Corinthians 1:22-23**

The Greek Lexicon says the word "**sign**" means, "*Miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by him, or by which men prove that the \_\_\_\_\_ they are pleading is God's*". **Deuteronomy 6:16**

- **John 12:37 although He had done so many signs before them, they did not \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, NKJV**

With the sign of Jonah, Jesus proclaimed the only promised sign that has the power to cause people to \_\_\_\_\_ is His resurrection. **Matthew 12:39**

- *"Christ crucified was the \_\_\_\_\_ oxymoron and this was what Paul preached!"* (David Guzik)

**IV. The power of the crucifixion. 1 Corinthians 1:24-25**

*"It is in the death of Christ that God has revealed the foolishness of man's wisdom and the weakness of man's \_\_\_\_\_."* (Wiersbe)

- *"God will not be so easily tamed, and, freed from its shackles, the preaching of the cross \_\_\_\_\_ has the power to set people free."* (Gordon Fee)

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

1. Read **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**. Why did D.A. Carson compare the idea of a horrific crucifixion saving someone, with the atomic bomb over Hiroshima or the death camps at Auschwitz? Why is the cross so offensive, as a tool of salvation, to those who do not believe?  
**Acts 5:30, 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 6:14, Galatians 5:11**
2. Read **Isaiah 55:8-9**. Discuss the stories of David and Goliath; Joshua at Jericho; Gideon and the Midianites.  
**1 Samuel 17, Joshua 6, Judges 7**
3. Read **1 Corinthians 1:19-21, 15:3-8**. What is the Gospel? Why does the Gospel sound like foolishness to those who are perishing?  
**Ephesians 2:8, Acts 4:20, John 14:6, Romans 1:20-22**
4. Read **Matthew 12:38-42**. What does the sign of Jonah represent, and why is that the sign given to a wicked generation? Why was the Pharisees requesting a sign, considered a sin?  
**John 2:23-25, John 12:37, Matthew 9:32-34, 15:31, Mark 13:8, Isaiah 9:6-7**
5. Read **1 Corinthians 1:24-25**. Discuss the Power of the crucifixion.  
**Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:4, Genesis 3:4, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19**