

The Foolish Cross
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

- I. Only the seemingly foolish message of the cross can save us (1 Corinthians 1:18-21).
- A. The cross seems foolish to those perishing but powerful to those being saved (1:18).
 - B. God exposes the folly of those who think they are too smart for the message of the cross (1:19-20).
 - C. We can't know God through human wisdom; we are only saved by faith in the cross (1:21).

How people reject God's salvation

1. Blatant Evil – They ignore and suppress God's truth by doing wickedness (Romans 1:18-31).
2. Self-righteous Pride – They trust in self-righteousness and reject God's righteousness through Christ (Romans 3:20-22; 10:3-4).

- II. We preach Christ's death because it's God's only wise and powerful salvation plan (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).
- A. Jews wanted Jesus to be a political savior and Greeks wanted perfect knowledge from a philosopher (1:22).
 - B. Our message is that Jesus was sacrificed for our sin, which is our real need (1:23-25).
 - Christ's crucifixion offended the Jews and the Gentiles despised anyone crucified (23).
 - God saves any who trust in God's wise and powerful salvation through Christ (24-25; Romans 1:16).