

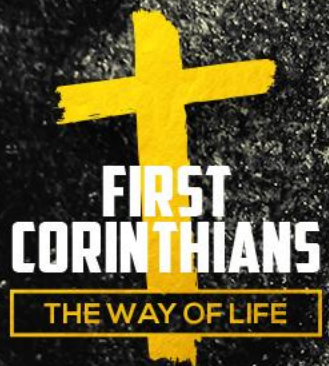


FIRST CORINTHIANS

THE WAY OF LIFE

The Centrality of the Cross

Michael Christie



Pride goes before destruction, a
haughty spirit before a fall.

- PROVERBS 16:18



1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."



²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.



²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.



²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.



²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”



The Cultural Approach

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18



Moved by the perfection of His holy love, God in Christ substituted Himself for us sinners. That is the heart of the cross of Christ.

- JOHN STOTT
The Cross of Christ





Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles...

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-23





A proud man is always looking down on thing and people... as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.

- C.S. LEWIS
Mere Christianity



It rests on the time-line of history like a compelling diamond. Its tragedy summons all sufferers. Its absurdity attracts all cynics. Its hope lures all searchers. History has idolized and despised it, gold-plated and burned it, worn and trashed it. History has done everything but ignore it. How could you ignore such a piece of lumber? Suspended on its beams is the greatest claim in history. A crucified carpenter claiming to be God on earth. Divine. Eternal. The death-slayer. Never has timber been regarded so sacred. No wonder the apostle Paul called the cross event the core of the gospel. It's bottom line sobering: if the account is true, it is history's hinge. Period. If not, the cross is history's hoax. Which is the cross for you, hinge or hoax? Or in the words of Jesus, "Who do you say that I am?"

- MAX LUCADO

No Wonder they call Him the Saviour



The Christian Approach

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, 21





FIRST CORINTHIANS

THE WAY OF LIFE



If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ... Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- ROMANS 8:31-37



We are not to be surprised if living as Christians brings us to the place where we find we are at the end of our own resources, and that we are called to rely on the God who raises the dead.

- N.T. WRIGHT



The Calling

think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong... so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31





Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:31



