

## **IS THE CROSS ENOUGH?**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

### **OUR FAITH AS CHRISTIANS RISES AND FALLS ON THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS**

- *“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)*
- **What we believe about Jesus and the cross is what separates Christians from non-Christians.**
- **The message of the cross, that Jesus lived a sinless life, was crucified and died on the cross to make atonement for our sins, was placed in a borrowed tomb, and resurrected on the third day, doesn’t need any additional “seasoning.”**

### **WE DON’T NEED MIRACULOUS SIGNS OR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS**

- *“22 For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. 24 Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 because God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.”*
- *“An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” (Matthew 16:4)*
- **When the cross of Christ is not enough, we are not ready, or “wise” enough to follow Jesus.**
- **If the Lord never shows us another miracle, or gives us the answers to our personal questions and concerns, He has already done more than enough through the cross.**
- *“Although He was the Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered. 9 After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:8-9)*

### **THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS REVEALS THAT GOD SAVED US BASED ON HIS GOODNESS, NOT OUR QUALIFICATIONS**

- *“Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. 27 Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, 29 so that no one may boast in His presence. 30 It is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption— 31 in order that, as it is written:*

*Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)*

- **No human in all of history was good enough or smart enough to obtain forgiveness on their own, so God made a way through the cross of Christ.**
- *“But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 How much more then, since we have now been justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from wrath. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.” (Romans 5:8-11)*
- **The message of the cross doesn’t end at Jesus’ death, but on the third day when Jesus walked out of that tomb like a Boss defeating death, Hell, and the grave!**

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Observation**

- Why does Paul say the message of the cross seems like “foolishness” to the world but is “the power of God” to those who believe (v.18)?
- According to verses 22–25, why did both Jews and Greeks stumble over the cross, and how does Paul show it is actually God’s wisdom and power?
- What does Paul say about who and why God chooses people (vss. 26-31)?

### **Understanding**

- Why is the cross central to the Christian faith? What happens if we remove or diminish its importance?
- What are some “additions” people today are tempted to make to the gospel (self-help, good works, rituals, etc.)? In what ways have you struggled with this yourself?
- What is one way you can make the cross more central in your daily life — in prayer, worship, or conversations with others?
- What does it mean when Paul says God chose the “foolish” and the “weak” things of the world (vv. 27–29)? How does this show His grace?
- This week, how can you practice trusting in the sufficiency of the cross instead of chasing after “something more”?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?