

## MOVING TOWARD THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

Westland Baptist Church

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*<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” <sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

- **JESUS DIED TO:**

Jesus died to take away our sin.

Jesus died to set us free from the power of sin.

Jesus died to fulfill the need for an innocent sacrifice.

Jesus died to fulfill prophecy.

- **THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS A STRANGE MESSAGE. A SIMPLE MESSAGE.**

*“...the foolishness of what was preached...” vs 21*

- **THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS A SHOCKING MESSAGE.**

Jesus was scourged. Matthew 27:26

Jesus was beaten. Luke 22:63-64

Jesus was spit upon. Matthew 27:30

His beard was plucked from His face. Isaiah 50:6

Jesus was mocked. Matthew 27::26-29

**Jesus was stripped naked. Matthew 27:35**

**Jesus was nailed to the cross. Matthew 27:38**

**• THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS A SIMPLE MESSAGE.**

**Romans 10:9-10** <sup>9</sup> *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

**• THE CROSS DECLARES GOD'S LOVE.**

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**• THE CROSS SETTLED (PAID) MAN'S SIN DEBT AND THEREFORE PROVIDED SALVATION.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[b]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**• BECAUSE OF THE CROSS, SIN IS OVERCOME, HELL IS DEFEATED, and HEAVEN IS OFFERED TO AND SECURED FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE!**

**John 14:1-6** *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."*

<sup>5</sup> *Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*