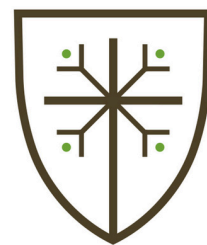


# Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

## SERMON NOTES



June 8, 2025

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"A Scandalous Folly"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Acts 2:1-18

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 14:12-17

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you most often find the power of the cross in conflict with the wisdom of this world?
2. How can we grow in becoming a church that recognizes the kingdom value of each person in the Body of Christ instead of the worldly value?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our sermon series on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We saw last week how the city of Corinth was, in many ways, similar to the culture we find ourselves in today in Austin, TX. We are inundated with the wisdom of the world and the temptation to judge one another based on status, wealth, or beauty. But in today's passage, Paul exhorts the Corinthians (and us) to a different way of seeing things—the way of the Cross.

#### Concern

Paul's concern for the church is great, given their context in Corinth. But he also knows that, in Christ, they have been filled with every good gift and have potential for significant kingdom impact.

The main thing that was valued in the city of Corinth was wisdom. It was filled with what we might consider "celebrity" philosophers, and one of the major questions they sought to address was about suffering: Why does it happen, and how do we deal with it? Do we, like the Stoic school of thought, just accept it and live a disciplined life in the face of it? Or follow the Epicureans, who said that suffering was inevitable, so just ignore it and detach? Or the Skeptics, who taught that suffering is a product of dogmatic belief, so just become a relativist and you'll be less disappointed? Or even the Hedonists, whose message was to maximize pleasure and minimize pain?

These were all grounded in the wisdom of the world. The Corinthian imagination was captured by these messages, and they were using the good gifts of God against one another. This is Paul's main concern: that the power of the cross is being watered down by the wisdom of the world.

#### Cross

In Scripture, the word "foolishness" means emptiness, vanity. It is something temporary with no substance. The foolish person is trusting in and living for something that will eventually prove to be nothing. Time and time again, Paul says that the cross is the thing that will show the wisdom of the world to be nothingness. At the heart of worldly wisdom is us avoiding suffering for the sake of self, whereas at the heart of the cross is God embracing suffering for us. They are two opposite ways to deal with life, and they cannot coexist.

When the wise of the world hear about the cross, they think it is foolishness. The first-century Jews were waiting for a Messiah who would bring about a military victory and justice for their oppressors. But Jesus shows up and doesn't shed the blood of others; instead, he sheds his own. Jesus is a stumbling block to the Jews, a scandal to his own people. If the gospel is true, then Jesus is the center of everything. If it isn't true, then he is nothing. But for many of us, Jesus too often is something in between.

#### Call

There is no trying to be a Christian. You either are or you are not. Being a Christian is being in Christ—not because you are wise, powerful, noble, smart, strong, or rich, but because God chose you. He chose what is foolish, weak, low, and despised because he wanted to, so that no one might boast in his presence. God did everything, gave everything, in order to make his desire for you a reality. That is the foolishness of the cross that we, as Christians, are called to make the center of everything.