

# **Reedy Fork Baptist Church**

***Wednesday, March 11, 2026***

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Theme: " Faith In The Cross"**

***SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 NIV***

**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."<sup>[a]</sup>

**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.

### **I. Key Words:**

- Faith
- Cross
- Crucifixion
- Rejection
- Preaching

## II. People, Places, & Time:

- Apostle Paul
- Jews
- Greeks
- Corinth
- Corinthian Church

## III. Background:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 addresses divisions in the Corinthian church caused by members valuing worldly wisdom and intellectual superiority over the gospel. Paul contrasts human wisdom with God's "foolishness"—the cross—arguing that Christ's crucifixion is actually the supreme power and wisdom of God, specifically designed to humble human pride. This passage serves as a correction, calling the believers to focus on the message of the cross rather than on the rhetoric of human leaders or philosophical speculation.

## IV. In Depth:

### **1. Lesson Emphasis #1: The Preaching of the Cross Rejected.**

**A.** The Jew could not see how the Chosen One of God could be destined for a cross.

1. The preaching of the cross did not square with the announcement that Jesus was the Messiah.
2. Conversely, to the Jew, it proved definitively that Jesus could not possibly be the Promised One of God.
3. Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse" (Deut. 21:23 NIV).
4. Now Paul clearly reminded the Corinthians that he had only one message, namely, "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (24).
5. This was difficult for pious Jews to embrace because from birth they had always been taught that anyone who hangs on a cross is cursed of God.
6. To the Jew this theology of the cross was a scandal (Gr. skandalon), and a stumbling block.

**B.** For the Greek, God was distant, aloof, unconcerned, apathetic about humankind's plight and the world's problems.

1. God could not and would not bother himself with humankind's welfare.
2. For the Greek it was insane to think that God would be so filled with love that he would "become flesh."
3. It was equally preposterous or unreasonable to think that God could not only care but also hurt and die.
4. The Greeks made a methodological mistake: they presupposed that a person's thoughts could define God, rather than God's actions defining himself.
5. The cross was pivotal to Paul because it teaches what God is really like.

## **2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Results of Preaching The Cross.**

- In the cross of Christ, God accomplishes at least two things.

### **A. First, He reveals.**

1. Christ is the "wisdom of God" (v. 24); that is, he is the Word of God.
2. In Jesus Christ we know what God is like.
3. Through the cross we learn that God is love and that he will go to any length to show us that love.
4. The cross of Christ proclaims God's willingness to forgive our sins and his desire to be united with us.
5. The cross rectifies our mistakes and shows God's forgiveness for deeds we deem unforgivable.

### **B. Second, He redeems.**

1. Christ is the power of God unto salvation (v. 24).
2. God is not preached as one who became angry at man for his sin and abandoned him.
3. God wants to win back the rebellious.
4. Again, as the apostle John wrote, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin" (1 John 4:10 NIV).

