

The Wisdom of The Cross

March 24, 2024



The Wisdom of The Cross



What Is Wisdom?

- Wisdom is knowledge that is guided by understanding
- Wisdom is thinking and living as God designed us to live.
- Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge to everyday life.

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There Are Two Types Of Wisdom Alluded To In Scripture

- 1) Godly Wisdom And 2) Worldly Wisdom
 - There Is No Comparison Between The 2 Types Of Wisdom
- 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV) — 25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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1 Corinthians 1:17–24 (NIV) — 17 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. 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.

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1 Corinthians 1:17–24 (NIV) — 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.”

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“Wisdom Is The Cross, And The Cross Is Wisdom.”

- *“If you are looking for wisdom you get to the cross, for what you discover in the mystery of the cross is the way to real life.”*
- **The Cross Is The Turning Point For The Human Race.**
At The Cross People Of All Backgrounds; Locales; Ages And Cultures Come To The Saving Activity Of God
- **The “Cross Of Christ, = The “Blood Of Christ” = The “Death Of Christ.”**

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The cross of Christ also describes the crucifixion

- *Lee Strobel describes the flogging and crucifixion as “a beating so barbarous that it shocks the conscience, and a form of capital punishment so depraved that it stands as wretched testimony to man’s inhumanity to man.”*
- **1 Corinthians 15:3 (NIV)** — 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

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Jesus Predicted His Own Crucifixion

- The Jews considered that Jesus' hanging on the cross was under the curse of God.
- **Galatians 3:13 (NIV)** — 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

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- *Because the Jews had a wrong understanding of the curse Jesus bore in his death, his crucifixion was to them a stumbling block. They could not trust in Jesus' death on the cross as a way of salvation, and therefore they could not be saved.*

AMG Concise Bible Dictionary

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Paul's Primary Purpose Is To Preach The Gospel (v.17)

- **The Gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NIV)** — 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

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There Is Something Powerful About The Cross:

- It Is The Plan Of God
- It Is The Power Of God
- It Is The Wisdom Of God

- It Is For All The World & Creation To Take Note Of

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The Two-Part Aspect of the Message of the Cross

- **1 Corinthians 1:18 (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.
- The message of the cross is either foolish or powerful --
Depending On Who Hears It

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The Foolishness Of Human Wisdom Can't Understand The Cross (v.19)

- To Those Who Have Not Received Christ, The Cross Seems Foolish.
- But To Those Who've Been Saved And Delivered, It Is Powerful And Life Changing.

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The Cross Is What Destroys And Frustrates The World's Thinking. (v.20-21)

- A) The cross destroys the wisdom of the wise
- B) The cross frustrates the intelligence of the intelligent
- C) The cross makes the world's wisdom foolish

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**This Message Of Truth Is Rejected By Jews And Greeks
Because: (v.22-23)**

- *It is not what they are looking for.*
- *It is offensive.*
- *And it is a stumbling block to them.*
- *It is foolishness to them*

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Those Who Believe Find It Brings Salvation

- **1 Corinthians 1:24 (NIV)** — 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- **It is the Power and Wisdom of God on display**
- Those who find the wisdom of the cross – and believe on Christ crucified -- will see their lives and future radically changed forever.

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Those who reject the cross, reject the very power and true wisdom of God in Christ – and that has eternal implications

- **John 3:18 (NIV)** — 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son

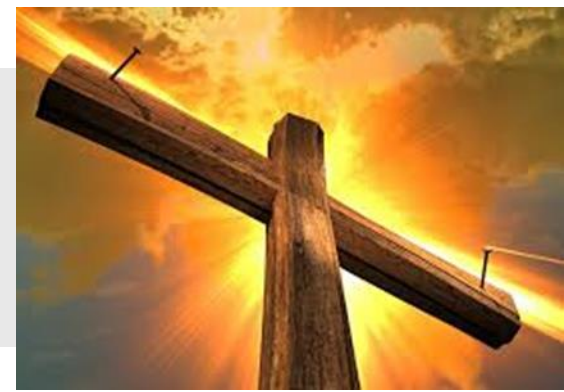
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True Believers Must See & Get This

- The true message of Godly wisdom is Christ crucified
- To the called -believer it is the power of God!
- And the wisdom of God

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The Cross Is Better, Wiser And More Powerful Than Anything Man Can Put Together

- **1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)** — 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.
- **The Cross displays the fact that God at his worst is infinitely better than man at his best.**

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God Did Not Choose The High And Mighty He Chose The Weak And Lowly. (26-29)

- God chooses and saves the unwise, the unimpressive, regular people to be saved
- ***Why?*** So that no one can boast and take credit for their salvation, wisdom or righteousness.
- **Our Only Boast Is In The Lord**
- **We Glory In The Cross!!**

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The End Of The Contest And The Battle Between Godly Wisdom & Worldly Wisdom Ends In A Checkmate: God chooses (by his will, plan, decision) (V.30-31)

- *He will use his foolishness to shame the wisdom of the wise*
- *He will use his weakness to shame the strength of the strong*
- Instead of the wisdom, influence, and nobility of this world The Lord chooses to empower, and make wise, the lowly, despised things that are not, to nullify the things that are

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Godly Wisdom Is Superior & Separate From Worldly Wisdom

- Our Only Salvation Accomplished By The Wisdom Of The Cross
- **Our only boast is in the Lord**
- **Galatians 6:14 (NIV)** — 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

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The Cross Is The Center-Point Of Creation's History.

- The wisdom of God accomplished it
- The cross is not foolish, it is the pinnacle of wisdom
- The cross did not overcome Christ-- Christ overcame the cross
- The Cross would not bring Him down, yet it would lift Him up.

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We Should Embrace The Foolishness Of The Cross

- ***#1-- The Cross Meets God's Requirements***
- ***#2 --The Cross Symbolizes Christ's Mission: For Us***
- ***#3 -- The Cross Illuminates The Foolishness Of Worldly Wisdom & Celebrates The Wisdom Of God***
- ***#4 -- Our Response To The Cross Determines Our Destiny***

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Our Response Will Either Be Wise, Or Foolish

- ***What We Could Never Do For Ourselves;***
- ***Christ Has Done For Us On The Cross***

A wooden cross is the central focus, set against a dramatic sky of orange and yellow light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of dark, weathered wood. In the top left corner, there is a small, solid orange horizontal bar. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

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