

Focus passage: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly 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,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. **22** For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. **30** And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **31** so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

What stands out to you from this passage?

Why do you think the cross would appear as folly?

*Even Peter thought Jesus should avoid suffering. **Read Matthew 16:21-26.** Why do you think Peter “rebuked” Jesus?*

How does it make you feel to be called foolish? Or to be made to feel stupid?

We do not like to feel inferior to others, but looking to the cross will appear foolish. How can we prepare ourselves to be seen that way?

*As believers, how ought we see the cross and the crucifixion of Christ? What has been accomplished by that event? **Read Romans 5:6-11.***

Is it hard to read passages of scripture that minimize our own contributions? What are we to learn from verses like 1 Corinthians 1:26-29?

How can we best boast in Jesus Christ?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

