

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 4



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the power and wisdom of Christ in dying on the cross for our sins?
2. What does v.18 tell us? **(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.)**
3. What do Jews and Greeks look for according to v.22? **(Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom.)**
4. What does Paul preach in v.23? **(But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.)**



Let's go deeper

5. What does v.24 tell us? **(But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.)**
6. What does v.25 tell us? **(For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God stronger than human strength.)**
7. What three theological words does Paul use in v.30b to explain God's wisdom in Christ? **(Righteousness, holiness, and redemption.)**
8. In whom must we boast according to v.31? **(Therefore, as it is written: "let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.)**



Let's apply this

9. 1 Corinthians 1:22 – 24; Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- How has the message of the cross impacted and changed your life?
- Do you believe that Jesus' death on the cross was enough to forgive all your sins past, present and future?
- Do you believe Jesus' words in Matt. 9:2b; when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man take heart son (daughter) your sins are forgiven.

SUMMARY:

1 Cor.: Week 4 – Christ the power and wisdom of God **Read:** 1 Cor. 1:18 – 31

vv.18 – 24; Three attitudes towards the cross? Some stumble at the cross. This was the attitude of the Jews, because their emphasis was on miraculous signs and the cross appears to be weakness. Jewish history is filled with miraculous events, from the exodus out of Egypt to the days of Elijah and Elisha. The Jewish nation looked for a Messiah who would come like a mighty conqueror and defeat all their enemies. He would then set up His kingdom and return the glory to Israel. The question of the apostles in Acts 1:6; Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel, shows how strong this hope was among the Jews.

Some laugh at the cross. This was the response of the Greeks. To them, the cross was foolishness. The Greeks emphasized wisdom; we still study the profound writings of the Greek philosophers. But they saw no wisdom in the cross, for they looked at the cross from a human point of view. Had they seen it from God's viewpoint, they would have discerned the wisdom of God's great plan of salvation.

Some believe and experience the power and the wisdom of the cross. Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. It is in the death of Christ that God has revealed the foolishness of man's wisdom and the weakness of man's power.

Three scriptures that reveal Christ's power and wisdom of the cross: **Hebrews 10:11 – 14;** The Old Testament sacrifices for sin only covered the sin, but could never completely remove sin, only Jesus' death on the cross can completely once and for all remove and forgive sins.

Isaiah 53:5; tells us that God the Father punished Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, and therefore those who believe in Jesus and have their sins forgiven by Jesus Christ don't have to fear punishment from God, because Jesus was punished for us. **Ephesians 3:18,** tells us that when we look at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, we can see how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for us. From the cross God the Father says to mankind – I love you!

vv.25 – 31; God shows His wisdom by means of the righteousness, holiness, and redemption that we have in Christ. **Righteousness** has to do with our standing and acceptance before God. God declares us righteous in Jesus Christ. But we are also made **holy / sanctified**, set apart to belong to God and to serve Him. **Redemption** emphasizes that we are set free because Jesus Christ paid the price for us on the cross. To be redeemed means to buy back someone or something.

Righteousness – we have been saved from the penalty of sin; **Sanctification** – we are being saved from the power of sin; and **Redemption** – we shall be saved from the presence of sin. And every believer has all of these blessings in Jesus Christ.