

The Foolishness and Weakness of God

I Cor 1:18-25

Introduction:

A. Is God foolish and weak?

1. I Cor 1:25 states that *the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

a. This is not saying, *If God were foolish, He still would be wiser than men, or if God were weak, He still would be stronger than men.*

b. It is presenting the foolishness and weakness of God as a r_____.

2. This passage is not stating that God is foolish and weak but that a s_____ thing is the foolishness and weakness of God.

B. The point – how do you view the foolishness and weakness of God?

What the foolishness and weakness of God is

A. The message of the cross in ancient times (v. 18)

1. People just saw a m_____ named Jesus going to his death.

a. Ancient h_____ attest to this fact of history (Jewish, Roman, and Greek).

b. When the disciples watched Jesus go to the cross, they only saw it as an instrument of d_____

2. Jesus stated that the cross would be an instrument of l_____, bringing about the forgiveness of sins (Matt 20:28; 26:28) and that this was the only way that anyone could experience God (Jn 14:6).

a. The disciples did not understand this until Jesus r_____ from the dead.

b. The disciples became bold proclaimers of the gospel message and d_____ proclaiming it.

3. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are p_____ (unbelievers)

a. The Jews wanted Jesus to give a certain s_____ even though they had seen Jesus perform miracles (I Cor 1:22a; Matt 12:38; 16:1). Jesus gave them the sign of J_____ which refers to His resurrection from the dead.

b. The Greeks were searching for w_____ through philosophical ideas (I Cor 1:22b; Acts 17:22,23)

B. The message of the cross today

1. The unbelieving world

a. Holds to their own i_____ about God

1) God is b_____ us

- 2) God is w_____ every person
- 3) God does not e_____
- b. Sees the message of the cross as f_____.
2. Is the f_____ and weakness of God.

What the foolishness and weakness of God does

- A. It makes the w_____ of the world look extremely foolish.
 1. Is 29:14 prophesied that God would d_____ the wisdom of the wise.
 2. I Cor 1:20,21 – Paul challenges any wise man, scribe, or debater of this world to show that people can come to k_____ God through their philosophy.
 - a. The above word is not referring to knowing f_____
 - b. The above word translates a Greek word that means to know in a p_____ way.
 3. Today, the world today is still h_____ for God.
- B. It c_____ lives.
 1. It is the p_____ of God to those who are being saved (1 Cor 1:20b)
 - a. Everyone who t_____ Jesus experience the power of God (v. 21)
 - b. The power of God is a p_____ - Christ (v. 24)
 - c. We experience God personally through Christ.
 2. The apostle Paul's life was changed
 - a. He was a persecutor of the c_____
 - b. He willingly became persecuted for p_____ Christ.
 3. The life of many Moslems have been changed
 - a. They have t_____ Christ in the face of being ostracized by their families, jailed, exiled, or killed.
 - b. There is no logical reason for such Moslems to accept Christ unless they were truly experiencing God.
 4. Mike Wester life was changed
 5. How has Christ changed your life?