

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

Based on the Scripture text, fill in the blanks in the box below. The first letter of each answer is provided.

Compare:

Those p_____ = Cross is f_____

Those b_____ s_____ = Cross is p_____ of God

Voices of the world's wisdom:

The w_____, the s_____, the d_____

Wisdom of the w_____ = made foolish by God

Jews: demand s_____; Christ is stumbling block

Greeks/Gentiles: seek w_____; Christ is folly

Voice of God's wisdom:

The p_____

Wisdom of G_____ = Christ crucified

To c_____ Jews = power

To c_____ Greek = wisdom

'foolishness' per perishing Greeks

'weakness' per perishing Jews

'wiser' per God

'stronger' per God

^{1:18} 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.

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1. What comparisons/contrasts does Paul make in verse 18?
2. What do the Jews demand?
3. What do the Greeks seek?
4. According to this passage, where are these things to be found? (see verses 23-24)
 - a. Does everyone find these things in Christ? (see verse 23)
 - b. What is the one distinguishing characteristic of those who do find those things in Christ? (see verse 24)
 - c. How do those without this characteristic see Christ? (see verse 23)
5. How does a person not come to know God? (see verse 21)
 - a. What does this mean?
6. According to verse 21, through what means does a person come to know God?

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 again.

7. What two competing sources of wisdom does Paul mention in verses 20-21?
 - a. Throughout the passage, what words or categories does Paul associate with the wisdom of the world?
 - b. Throughout the passage, what words or categories does Paul associate with the wisdom of God?
8. Why can't both sources of wisdom be correct?
 - a. What decision is Paul implying that the Corinthians have to make?
 - b. How does this passage define the wisdom from God?
9. What were the three primary voices that spoke the world's wisdom to the Corinthians? (see verse 20)

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10. What are the voices that speak the world's wisdom today?

11. Who was the voice of God's wisdom to the Corinthians?

12. Who is the voice that speaks God's wisdom today?

13. What is the content of the preaching that leads to knowledge of God? (see verses 18 and 23)

a. How might the message of the cross be a stumbling block or seem foolish to some people?

b. How does a message centered on the cross and Christ crucified demonstrate God's power and wisdom?

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 again.

14. Read Isaiah 29:9-24.

- a. According to these passages (Isa and 1 Cor), why do some people not recognize the wisdom of God?

- b. Isaiah was written about 700 years before 1 Corinthians. How does the fact that God described people's reactions to the message of the cross so long before it happened prove His power and wisdom?

15. The Jews and Greeks wanted signs and wisdom. Where do you see people today looking for signs and wisdom?

- a. Why are these inadequate?

16. What other things do people today demand or expect from God in order for God to "prove Himself"?

- a. Why are these things inadequate?

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17. Was there a time when you thought the message of the cross was foolish? Explain.

18. Are you willing to be thought of as foolish for preaching Christ crucified or have you been tempted to keep quiet to avoid being thought of as foolish? Explain.

19. Summarize this week's passage in one sentence.

In preparation for Sunday, pray for the message of Christ crucified to be boldly proclaimed and believed.