

**In our text, Paul was speaking of two (2) categories of people; the perishing and the saved.**

EVERY one of us falls into one of these (2) categories this morning; Paul specifically defined them in (V18) AS:

THEM that perish; and US which are saved

Since Paul was dealing with these very important gospel issues, there were probably many naysayers plaguing the church at Corinth from among both unsaved Jews and Greeks.

Christ crucified was the main issue: Unregenerate/Unbelieving Jews and Greeks BOTH rejected the idea of a crucified Messiah and King who accomplished forgiveness through suffering, the shedding of His blood, and His death on the cross! This was foolishness and absurd!

To the lost/unsaved Jew, Christ crucified was a stumbling block: Jesus was NOT the Messiah they had envision/hoped for; they looked for a glorious temporal King, NOT one who was meek and lowly, and NOT one who spent His time mostly among the common people; and certainly NOT one who would be crucified like a criminal. So, they rejected Him. 1 Peter 2:6-8

The Jews could not get past His birth, His parents, that He was never educated in their schools, and that He was a Friend to sinners! So, they rejected Him, and HE WAS their Chief Cornerstone; He was their foundation stone pushed aside and set at naught; the foundation on which they refused to build.

Ephesians 2:19-20, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Acts 4:10-12

**In (V22); the ALSO Jews required a sign: Show us a sign! John 6:30**

They consistently compelled Jesus to show them a sign; prove to us that you're the Messiah! Matthew 12:38-40, 16:1-4, Mark 8:11-12

Jesus was a living sign whom they refused and rejected! Look at my works and miracles, and hear my Word! What more do you want? Do they not bear witness of who I am?

**And then, there were the Greeks who seek after and desire wisdom.**

It was absurd and did not make sense to the high-minded Greeks that forgiveness for sins and atonement with God would be granted to those that believed in a crucified Saviour and King. And that the payment for sinners would be this man's blood? This was foolishness to the Greeks!

So, what did Paul and Silas and Timothy do? Did they fear that Jews and Greeks would leave the church? Did they change their message so as NOT to offend the Jews or seem foolish to the Greeks? NO!

1 Corinthians 1:23: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews offensive and a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness

But Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; the world can call the doctrine of the cross an offence, a stumbling stone, and foolishness; call it what you will, but it is God's message of truth and power and of salvation!

To reject the gospel is to reject the Lord Jesus Christ; to reject the Person of Christ is to reject His sacrifice on the cross. But know that in rejecting the gospel of the crucified Christ, you are rejected the way of salvation, and the Only Savior of sinners! Acts 5:30-32

**The lost/unsaved today are no different; they are seeking after a sign; they call the preaching of the cross, foolishness.**

There must be another way to know God; surely by human reason and wisdom. God will consider my life and my good works; I will take my chances on my righteousness and that I have not greatly sinned in my life.

This is what your own heart and your own human reasoning will tell you in your own mind: Proverbs 28:26, Jeremiah 17:9

**Next: You should notice (from the text) the wisdom of God standing in complete opposition to the wisdom of this world.**

God proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah, but also right here by the Apostle Paul that God would destroy the wisdom of the wise:

(V19): I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Fallen & sinful man is not capable of knowing God savingly by natural, human wisdom. Romans 1:18-22, 1 Corinthians 2:14

It is ONLY through the preaching the cross, (the gospel) that lost sinners may come to KNOW GOD savingly! 2 Timothy 3:15

The gospel of the crucified Christ IS the power of God unto salvation to EVERYONE that believes it. But trying to KNOW GOD by human wisdom, science, and natural reasoning is like trying to build a tower to reach heaven with earthly materials. Isaiah 29:9-14

God declared: All of your faulty wisdoms, reasonings, traditions and commandments of men, and all of your philosophies will perish in the world in which they were created. God said, I will destroy ALL of this earthly wisdom and bring it to nothing!

ALL who reject the crucified Christ will be counted as fools; while servants of Christ who TURN MANY to righteousness through the preaching of the gospel will shine. (V18-20).

And then, I love what Paul wrote in (V21):

It PLEASED God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

**1 Corinthians 1:24-25: But unto them (of both Jews and Greeks) which are (effectually) called, (meaning saved and forgiven for their sins); Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

Of course, there is NO FOOLISHNESS with God; Paul simply stated that if there was such a thing, (and there is not), the foolishness of God would transcend (be WISER) then ALL of the wisdom that is in EVERY wise man or woman in the world.

Proverbs 26:12

And if there was a weakness in God, (and there is not); God's weakness would be stronger than every single mortal human in the world combined.

**1 Corinthians 1:26: For ye see your calling, brethren:**

FOR YOU SEE God's call to you to the salvation of your soul was through the gospel of Christ; you heard and received it! And now consider this: NOT MANY (of you) are wise (or filled with human wisdom), NOT MANY (of you) are mighty (or great in the world), and NOT MANY (of you) are noble (you are NOT the upper class of the world's society).

Not many of these types of people are called by God unto salvation, they reject the preaching of the cross because THEIR OWN wisdom and rank and arrogance in this world will not allow them to! To them, the gospel of the crucified Christ is foolishness! Matthew 11:25

*These truths are hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes.*

**BUT God hath chosen: (V27-29):**

It PLEASED God to save the SICK and NEEDY, and those OUT OF THE WORLD who are looked upon by the wise, mighty, and noble IN THE WORLD as foolish, weak, base, and despised.

*(V29): That NO FLESH should glory in His presence*

NO ONE can claim their salvation to be because of their own wisdom, because they were mighty in the world, or because they were of noble birth in the world; if that were the case, they would have the ADVANTAGE.

The truth is; people like THIS in the world are at a great DISADVANTAGE!

*1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Ephesians 2:8-9*