

# Sermon Notes



## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

**Big Idea: The Cross is the Power of God unto Salvation**

**Socrates:** *“Be as you wish to seem.”*

**Aristotle:** *“Happiness depends upon ourselves.”*

**Plato:** *“Better to be unborn than untaught, for ignorance is the root of misfortune.”*

**Cook:** *“Hey Siri...”*

**Core problem:**

There is a God!

We are messed up!

We all die!

We need a solution!

**A. The Cross Seems Foolish (18a)**

“For the **word of the cross** is **folly** to those who are **perishing**...”

**B. The Cross is Powerful (18b-20)**

“...but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.”

**1. The Power to Connect with God.**

**Theodore Roszak: ... Transcendence in the Post-Industrial Age.**

*“There is an irreducible knowledge in us that reality is awesomely vast; that it has a transcendent dimension; a metaphysical, supernatural dimension to it...”*

## **2. The Power of the Holy Spirit**

### **Acts 1:8a**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”

## **3. The Power to Forgive**

**Luke 5:23-** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>But that you may know that the **Son of Man has authority** on earth to forgive sins....

## **4. Power Above all Powers (19-20)**

For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

## **2 Kings 18:19-20**

“Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: **On what do you rest this trust of yours?** Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war?’”

## **4. Power Above all Powers (19-20)**

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”

## **Big Idea: The Cross is the Power of God unto Salvation**

### **C. The Cross Pleases God (21-25)**

**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.

1. We aren't Skilled Enough
2. We get to be Involved
3. We get to Believe

### **C. The Cross Pleases God (21-25)**

3. We get to Believe

“...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,...”

### **C. The Cross Pleases God (21-25)**

4. The Cross calls all people by God's power (v. 24-25)

**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.

## **Big Idea: The Cross is the Power of God unto Salvation**

# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### Big Idea: The Cross is the Power of God unto Salvation

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18a says, "*For the **word of the cross** is **folly** to those who are **perishing**, ...*".

Share examples of why the cross of Jesus is foolish (Gr. 'moronic') to some people. Why don't people like to accept the account of Christ and the crucifixion?

2. 1 Corinthians 1:18b says, "*...but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.*"

Share your testimony with the group and how you saw the power of God in it. Discuss the following aspects of this power, and how it affects your daily outlook on life:

- a. Power to connect you to knowing God. (Isaiah 43:1)
- b. Power to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- b. Power to offer you forgiveness. (Luke 5:23)
- c. Power above all powers (1 Cor. 1:19-20).

*\*Note that v. 19 is a quote from Isaiah 29 which references the time when God intervened and saved Israel from 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (2 Kings 18).*

3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:21-25. What is it about the cross that is so pleasing to God? Discuss.

- a. We aren't skilled enough (21a) "*...the world did not know God through wisdom...*"
- b. We get to be involved (21b) "*...through the folly of what we preach...*"
- c. We get to simply believe (21c) "*...to save those who believe...*"
- d. The cross calls all people by God's power and wisdom. (v. 22-25)

## **Big Idea: The Cross is the Power of God unto Salvation**

### **Application**

Take a few minutes to share about the people in your life who do not yet know Jesus. Add them to your B.L.E.S.S. list and tell the group who they are and what they are like. Give examples of signs you see in them of hardness or of willingness to talk about Jesus. Take a few minutes to pray for them by name and ask God to open opportunities to listen, eat with, serve or share the gospel with them.