

Welcome to Holly Hills Bible Church

Service to start
at 10:20 AM

Paul set up a contrast between

- **Cleverness** (a mental putting together) of speech and
- **the Cross of Christ**

(NASB) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

Next, He points out that the gospel is **not** a form of human wisdom (*sophia*).

1. Its message of **a crucified Son of God** does **not** appeal to human wisdom (1:18-25).
2. Second, its recipients are not especially wise in the eyes of humanity (1:26-31).
3. Third, Paul's preaching was not impressive in its human wisdom, but it produced powerful results (2:1-5).

The apostle's thesis is disclosed first in

¹⁸ For the *word of the cross* is *foolishness* to those who are *perishing*, but to us who are (being saved) it *is the power of God*.

and then twice restated in 1:21

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom *did not come to know God*, God was well-pleased through the *foolishness* of the *message preached* to save those who believe.

and 1:23-24

²³ but we *preach Christ crucified*, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles *foolishness*,

²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*.

What is the doctrine of the cross?

- The doctrine of the cross is the teaching that Jesus Christ,
- the Son of God, became a man, died a death
- wherein the guilt and penalty of man's sin was placed on Him,
- making it possible for salvation to be extended to those who believe in Christ and His work.

Who are the perishing?

- The present tense emphasizes that they will not merely perish in the future, but they are on the way to destruction right this minute.
- They are named relative to their destiny.
- Just as the saved are designated as to their destiny.

HOW DO THE SAVED VIEW THE CROSS?

The saved **view the cross** from the standpoint of what it displays— the **power of God**.

- This is why the message does not need the adornment of human eloquence or salesmanship or the approval of human wisdom.
- Those who are saved **measure it by its effectiveness** and therefore believe it.
- In the first part of verse 18, man is the measure;
- in the second, God is the measure.

The logic of verse 20 is as follows.

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?

- If the doctrine of the cross is true, as it is, and
- Human wisdom rejects it, as it does,


What can we conclude about human wisdom?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

WHAT IS HUMAN WISDOM'S HIGHEST GOOD?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God,

*God was well-pleased through the **foolishness** of the message **preached** to save those who **believe**.*

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- A vibrant garden scene featuring a large tree with pink blossoms in the background. A winding path leads through a lush green lawn. In the foreground, there are several flower beds filled with colorful tulips in shades of orange, red, and purple, interspersed with blue hyacinths. Benches are visible along the path, and the overall atmosphere is bright and cheerful.
- Piano music to close the service