

Answer One: The Cross

1 Corinthians 01:17–25

1 *The cross is the primary mission of the preacher*

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel —
not with words of human wisdom,
lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

2 *The cross can be emptied of its power*

3 *The cross is the power of God*

- a. Foolish to the perishing
- b. Power to the saved

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

4 *The cross destroys the wisdom of men and makes foolish the wisdom of the world*

19 For it is written:
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate”

5 *The cross is the wisdom and power of God to save those who believe*

20 Where is the wise man?
Where is the scholar?
Where is the philosopher of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

6 *The cross answers man’s search for God*

- a. The Jew: Seeks a sign —
stumbles over the cross
- b. The Greek: Seeks wisdom —
concludes the cross is foolishness
- c. The called: Finds Christ —
discovers the cross is the power
and wisdom of God

21 For since in the wisdom of God
the world through its wisdom did not know him,
God was pleased through the foolishness
of what was preached
to save those who believe.

22 Jews demand miraculous signs
and Greeks look for wisdom,

23 But we preach Christ crucified:
a stumbling block to Jews
and foolishness to Gentiles,

24 But to those whom God has called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God
and the wisdom of God.

7 *The cross proves that God’s way is wiser and stronger than man’s way*

25 For the foolishness of God
is wiser than man’s wisdom,
and the weakness of God
is stronger than man’s strength.