


1 Corinthians 1:18-25


God's Ironic Foolishness:
A Crucified Christ

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Outline

- I. Intro 1:1-9
- II. Response to Reports 1:10-6:20
 - A. Church divided internally/Paul 1:10-4:21
 - 1. Division in the name of wisdom 1:10-17
 - 2. The Gospel: Ironic foolishness 1:18-2:5




The Cross: Foolishness To This Age

1 Cor 1:17 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.

"not in the wisdom of logos"

1 Cor 1:18 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.


apol I urenoi V= present participle "currently perishing"
swzomenoi V= present participle "currently being saved"

 **God Destroyed Man's Religion**

1 Cor 1:19 For it is written, "**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.**"

Isaiah 29:14: Belongs to a series of texts that warns Israel not to attempt to "match wits" with Yahweh (Fee). (cf. Isaiah 40:12-14, 25; Job 38:1-11)


Isaiah 28:1-33:24 "Folly of Trusting the Nations"
Isaiah 29:9-14 "Blindness of rote religion"

 **Trusting In Self Not Yahweh**

Isaiah 29:13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for me consist of tradition learned by rote, **Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous...**

1 Cor 1:19 For it is written, "**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.**"

Romans 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets. (Rom 9:31-32)

 **The Wisdom Of The World Is Foolish**

1 Cor 1:20 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?

s of oV= adjective – "wise" → "Jews ask for signs
g ammat euV= Jewish Scribe → and Greeks search for wisdom" vs 22

"...God Himself has rendered as foolish the world's wisdom, wisdom that belongs merely to the sphere of human sufficiency. God has not simply made such wisdom appear foolish; He has by means of the cross actually turned the tables on such wisdom altogether, so that it has been made into its very opposite – foolishness" (Fee, NICNT).

We Know God Through The Gospel

1 Cor 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

en th sof ia tou qeou = God arranged things in such a way, in His own wisdom, that the world could not know Him – even though we are morally culpable to do so.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (read Rom 1:22-23)

The Offense of The Gospel

1 Cor 1:22-23 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block** and to Gentiles foolishness,

Mark 8:11 The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him (cf. Matt 11:38-39; Luke 11:16)

Wisdom = "Their idolatry was to conceive of God as ultimate Reason, meaning of course what we deem to be reasonable. These, then, are the two basic idolatries; and they are ever with us. The demand for power and the insistence on wisdom, always for us or from our point of view, are still the basic idolatries of our fallen world" (Fee, NICNT).

Our Problem

Total depravity has effected every aspect of our being – so that we do not think right (cognitive), nor do we desire the things of God (volition).

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Romans 3:11 There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.

The Remedy: God's Effectual Call

1 Cor 1:24-25 ...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

kl ht oi V= those that are called by God so that they will be regenerated and believe the gospel.

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

t et a g r e n o i = perfect, passive – to assign, appoint or to designate - Louw Nida 37.95

Summary

Christ and His cross are the only means by which mankind can receive propitiation, expiation, and righteousness. Every other contrived means by man to justify himself before the Holy One of Israel is true foolishness and a gross insult to a holy and righteous God.

