Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 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. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

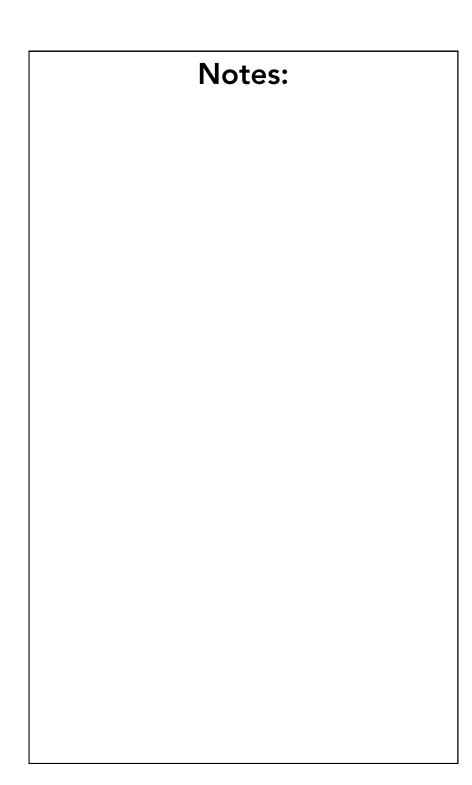
The Foolishness of God

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Todd Chapman - February 7, 2021

The cross appears as utter foolishness to most. Why?

1) Because God put together a "foolish" plan.

2) Because God chose "foolish" people to whom to reveal His wisdom.



Life Group Discussion Questions Based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Getting Started

- 1. What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear the words "fool" or "foolish"?
- 2. In your mind, what makes someone wise?
- 3. What are some things that people in this world think are wise but God thinks are actually foolish?

Digging into the Text

- 4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and respond:
- Summarize Paul's main idea in this section of text.
- According to v. 18, how is the cross both foolishness and the power of God?
- Based on vv. 19-21, why do you think it pleases God to bring about salvation through a message that seems utterly foolish to those who are wise in the world's eyes?
- Based on vv. 22-25, what is the centerpiece of God's wisdom?
 How is it different from what Jews and Greeks desire? How does it reveal God's ultimate wisdom and power?
- 5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and respond:
- What is Paul's major point in these verses?
- How does God gain glory through choosing to save and use the "foolish" and "weak" and "low" people?
- Based on vv. 29-31, who is ultimately responsible for our salvation?
- Describe how this fact necessarily precedes being able to only "boast in the Lord"?

Applying It to My Life

- 6. Hearing from Paul that God chooses the weak and powerless, how does that impact our view of ourselves, of the Church, and of sharing the Good News with others?
- 7. What is a step we can take this week to help us make much of Christ and promote Him in what we say and do?