

## **“GOD’S FOLLY”**

### **I Corinthians 1:18-2:5**

**The Message of the Cross (1:18-25)...** In today’s passage Paul wants the Corinthian Christians to realize that God has intentionally done things in our world in a way that appears foolish and weak. In doing so, He humbles humanity by revealing that even His “foolishness” and “weakness” are wiser and stronger than humanity’s wisdom and strength. God’s first act of “folly” was to rescue people from sin and death through the bloody execution of Jesus upon a cross. This appears to be a silly superstition to Greeks and ultimate defeat to Jews, but to those being saved, the cross is the power and wisdom of God.

**The Calling of the Corinthians (1:26-31)...** God’s second act of “folly” was His choice to rescue primarily the people of Corinth who were weak, poor, uneducated, and lowly. Paul reminds the Corinthians of this so that they would be encouraged to stop boasting about themselves and instead boast only of the amazing things that God has done for them through the cross.

**The Preaching of Paul (2:1-5)...** The last act of God’s “folly” was to bring His message of salvation to the Corinthians through the weak messenger Paul. Paul did not speak with eloquence or words of worldly insight. But God chose this type of messenger to discourage the Corinthians from putting their trust in man’s wisdom instead of God’s.

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Why do people find the cross of Jesus Christ so offensive?
2. What does Paul mean when he speaks of, “the foolishness of God”?
3. What does it mean to “boast in the Lord”? Do you boast that way?
4. How are you tempted to put your trust in the wisdom of men rather than the power of God?