

"WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN TO THE WORLD?"

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23

APRIL 10, 2022

Introduction

1. The world is _____ by the cross.

a. The cross offends our _____.

1 Corinthians 1:19-20 - For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where 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?

b. The cross offends our _____.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 - 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. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

c. The cross offends our _____.

1 Corinthians 1:28 - God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.

2. The world is _____ and _____ by the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:22-23 - For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:24-25 - But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men

3. The cross reveals the _____ and the _____ of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 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.

John 3:14-16 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Conclusion – The Paradox of the Cross

John 12:20-24 - Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:27-30 - "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

The Paradox of the Cross:

- We see unseen things.
- We conquer by yielding.
- We find rest under a yoke.
- We are made great by becoming small.
- We are exalted when we are humble.
- We become wise by being fools for Christ's sake.
- We gain strength when we are weak.
- We triumph through defeat.
- We live by dying.
- We are made free by becoming bondservants