

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 6

The Preaching of the Cross (1 Cor. 1:18-31)

28 July 2017

Verse 18 **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”**

Corrupt versions:

- NIV** “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.”
- NASV** “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
- Amplified** “For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the [manifestation of] the power of God.”
- New World** (Mormon) “For the speech about the torture stake is foolishness to those who are perishing; but to us who are being saved it is God’s power.”
- New KJV** “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.”
- RSV** “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.”
- Good News** “For the message about Christ’s death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God’s power.”

What modern bible translators commentators don’t like about this verse:

1. It says that God uses preaching to save lost sinners.
2. It says that those who have believed the Gospel can know for certain that they are saved.

This verse doesn’t say that God’s way of salvation is foolishness or that what God wrote about the cross is foolishness. It says that UNSAVED PEOPLE think YOU’RE foolish if you PREACH about the cross. (See 1:23, 2:4).

The world is okay with every religious practice except the preaching of the cross to unbelievers.

ROM. 10:13-17 You shall be saved when you call on the name of the Lord. Why would you ever do that if you never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ? Somebody who knows Jesus Christ must come to you and tell you about Him. Once you hear the gospel, you must believe it. Only then would you ever call on the name of the Lord. (Acts 8:26-39, 9:1-17, 10:1-5).

The latest generation of Christians that grew up without the truth of the King James Bible are not going to be able to reproduce more Christians. The new bibles are a diverse seed and a hybrid seed (Lev. 19:19, Deut. 22:9), not the incorruptible seed (1 Pet. 1:23, James 1:18), the seed of the word of God (Luke 8:11). Hybrid seed is not able to reproduce.

Life-changing, soul-stirring revivals stopped when preachers started using new bible versions.

SALVATION IS NOT A PROCESS

New bible versions make salvation a **process** in verse 18. *“To us who are being saved.”* We’re not working on being saved. Jesus paid it all! If you trusted the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary for your salvation, the moment you received Him as your Savior, you were instantly saved. And so, the KJV says, **“Unto us which ARE saved.”** It’s a completed transaction.

UNTO US WHICH ARE SAVED THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS IS THE POWER OF GOD

The fact that Jesus died on the cross 2,000 years ago is powerless if nobody preaches it. But when you’re not ashamed to preach it (Rom. 1:16), it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

How’s your attitude toward preaching? Does the preaching of the cross still move your heart and convict you of sins? If you find yourself merely tolerating the preaching, you’d better figure out why you think the preacher is a fool.

Vss. 19-20 “I will destroy the wisdom of:”

The wise: the educated thinkers of our day attempt to save the world through social programs, military agendas, economic plans, and religions that make people feel good about themselves.

The prudent: these cultured and refined people would try to save the world by getting rid of the bad things in the world.

The scribe: writers and the news media are always trying to influence the way society looks at things. The result is a society that is unsaved, wicked, and corrupt.

The disputer: these are people who try to right the wrongs of the world through protests and movements and organizations.

These are all condemned because all of them promote worldly solutions which will always fail. The only solution to fix this wicked world is the preaching of the gospel (vs. 18)

Vss. 21-26 “The foolishness of preaching” (vs. 21). The world thinks it’s foolish that God would assign ordinary men, women, and children to preach the important message of salvation (in verse 21, new bibles call the message foolish, rather than the preaching).

God’s method of preaching the gospel reveals His wisdom. There are millions of ordinary people to carry out His plan. If He’d chosen only wise men or mighty men or noble men, the job would never get done because there aren’t very many of them. Notice that you are called to preach (vs. 26). The wise, mighty, and noble are too smart, too busy, or too important to preach.

Vss. 27-31 God uses the nobody’s of this world. The Apostles were perceived to be “ignorant and unlearned men” (Acts 4:13). When the Jews heard Jesus teach they said, “How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?” (John 7:15). Jesus wasn’t raised in a palace, but a carpenter’s shop.
