

Foolishness

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. –1 Corinthians 1:18

Often the world makes the cross and those who believe in the precious shed blood of Christ seem foolish. Just the other day what I wanted to say got messed up and I sounded so foolish to those listening. Foolishness indicates that the person is devoid of good sense or judgment. They are just unwise.

At the time of Christ's crucifixion the Greeks were known as seekers of wisdom. They claimed superior knowledge and looked down on those who were foolish. To them a leader was not worth much if they were executed on a cross. How could such a "man" give any knowledge to the world?

The Jews also witnessed the cross of Christ. They were a people who had been in captivity for extended periods of their history. The Jews had been slaves to the Egyptians at the time of Moses. The Babylonians captured and controlled the Jews and at the time of Christ, they were ruled by the Romans. The Jews were looking for a leader to free them from bondage. They must have felt there was no way this "Messiah" could set them free.

Today some will look at the Crucifixion of Christ and recognize the humiliation and agony. Some will only see it as great art: paintings, music and literature. To others the cross brings back childhood memories: going to church on Easter Sunday, a godly grandmother reading the Bible, and praying before bedtime. To some it will be just foolishness.

As you think about the cross you need to remember that this was a path that Jesus chose because of His great love for you. He did not need to go through the torture and humiliation. He did it for you. Sin separated you from God, and this agonizing death, Christ shedding His blood on the cross, paid the penalty and allowed you to be free from the foolishness of sin.