

The Comfortable Cross

I Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Outline

Comfort

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

The Cross of Jesus

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." I Corinthians 1:18-31

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God." (vs. 18)

The Weakness of the Cross

The Power of God

"Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles...for the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." (vs. 22)

Why This Matter

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." (vs. 27)

Weakness Made Strength

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:8

"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10