

**“THE CROSS OF CHRIST, THE POWER
OF GOD”**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

INTRODUCTION

The similarities of this culture/church and ours are like a mirror. The issues they faced, we face. The solutions they had, we have. We need to be healthy & fit for the challenge. We must have a unified aim and purpose. *What is a local Church unified around?* **The Glory of God and the Great Commission.** Church members must have an outward focus to preach the Gospel. In this passage it answers the question, “What is the Gospel?”

IT’S FOOLISH (v. 18a)

It is foolish on many levels; That God would send His Son. The idea that I need to be saved, and the means of salvation by believing on Jesus crucified; if you preach that, it sounds ridiculous!

IT’S MIRACULOUS (v. 18b-20)

It’s the power of God. Salvation is of the Lord. It’s His idea, method and means. We would never come up with this because it grates against us.

- **Galatians 5:11** “**And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.**”

In **verse 19** Paul quotes **Isaiah 29** – God will do it in such a way that will be so miraculous, we will have no choice but to attribute it to God (**v.29**). Every ounce of credit has to go to Him. **Matthew 5.3** says the “poor in spirit”, those who admit they are spiritually bankrupt, are saved. (see **2 Kings 5**, Namaan, the Syrian general). Life is supernatural and salvation is too!

IT’S POWERFUL (v. 24, 25)

What happens when someone believes this “foolish” idea? God honors this method! **God’s power** is activated. It saves us from the **power of sin**. (It is powerful in its pull and control). Also from the **shame and guilt**, with the **power of forgiveness**, **1 John 1.9**. It saves us from **the realm of sin**. The Bible tells us we live in the realm of sin in this world. It saves us from **the universal emptiness**.

Not everyone recognizes it at the same time, but we all do ask, “What is the meaning of life?” **It is fellowship with God!** It saves us from **the finality and torment of death**. Death hangs over us all, but **Jesus** is the resurrection and the life!

CONSIDER

- Do you believe this foolish message of the Gospel has this power?
- Do you know how to explain the simple Gospel?
- Do you regularly offer this salvation Gospel to other people? Or are you intimidated and fearful?
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PRAY

- That the members of the body would be more committed to the Great Commission.
- That the body would evangelize and invite the unsaved into their lives and to Church.