

Sermon Outline November 27, 2016  
"God's Wisdom Seen in Redemption"  
1 Corinthians 1:25

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:25 NKJ)

I. What is meant by the phrase "the foolishness of God" –

1. This refers to those things of God which ungodly people count foolish, including:

A. The message of the cross –

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, ... (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

This is a message the ungodly world does not agree with, understand, or in any way benefit from, it is God's Wisdom, but to the world it is foolishness, preaching is foolishness, because they do not know God – For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21 NKJ)

B. Even the cross itself is counted foolish –

but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, (1 Corinthians 1:23 NKJ)

C. God's people are also considered "foolish" –

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;<sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,<sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence.<sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption--<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:27-31 NKJ)

D. Things of the Spirit, which the world cannot see or know are all considered "foolishness" –

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

2. Why does an ungodly world think these things foolish?

A. They think of the cross as a shameful, horrible thing ... in this they are at least partially correct, the cross is shameful, horrible ...

(1) The cross was connected to the curse –

... "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree ", (Galatians 3:13 NKJ)

(2) The cross was a stumbling block to the Jews because they thought it made them appear weak –

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.<sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.<sup>3</sup> Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.<sup>4</sup> Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." (John 19:1-4 NKJ) ---

Even though Pilate found "no fault in Him" moral excellence, the Jews were ashamed He was called "King of the Jews" because He appeared weak --- Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.<sup>21</sup> Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"" (John 19:20-21 NKJ)

(3) The Roman soldiers obviously thought the same of Christ, as they mocked Him! He was King of the Jews and they were a conquered people, they felt superior because able to beat Him, them.

B. However there are other reasons we think the cross FOOLISH, one of the major reasons is we think it unnecessary –

(1) People think it unnecessary because they think they are not THAT BAD –

People think they will get to Heaven because good works outweigh bad, they think they are okay because they are not worse than the next guy, but what if the next guy isn't good enough either? - As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

"knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (Galatians 2:16 NKJ)

(2) People think the cross unnecessary because they have problems with severe punishment, they don't believe in Hell, yet Christ did –

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--<sup>44</sup> "where`Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'<sup>45</sup> "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--<sup>46</sup> "where`Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'<sup>47</sup> "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire--<sup>48</sup> "where`Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' (Mark 9:43-48 NKJ)

(3) *Many today think the cross foolish and unnecessary because they do not believe in God, Heaven or Hell. They even count righteousness and especially judgment of sin to be evil –*

*To them the foolishness is to believe in God at all, yet God calls them fools –*

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (Psalm 14:1 NKJ)

*Sadly even this has reached churches -*

You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?" (Malachi 2:17 NKJ)

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” Richard Dawkins

## II. *How is the foolishness of God wiser than men?*

### 1. *It is beyond them –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

*These verses are referring to the CROSS, they are part of the context of the cross –*

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of

speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.<sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:1-2 NKJ)

### 2. *It deals with REALITY and not fantasy –*

#### A. *Our works are not righteous –*

But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 NKJ)

#### B. *Sin will be punished –*

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NKJ)

#### C. *Heaven, Hell are real and eternal –*

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, ... (Revelation 14:11 NKJ)

### 3. *It gives a real answer to these problems –*

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Hebrews 9:27-28 NKJ)

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."<sup>17</sup> "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:14-17 NKJ)

## III. *This is the WONDER of 1 Corinthians 2 –*

### 1. *It is PREACHABLE –*

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.<sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.<sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,<sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJ)

### 2. *It is wonderful –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJ)

*It does not NEED our help! It only NEEDS God's – 1 Corinthians 2:10*

*Arnold Brevick*