

## The Foolishness of the Gospel

1 Cor 1:17-25, 2:1-5

Guest Speaker Lance Terrill

November 19, 2017

Vol. 7 Num. 46

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Today we will be exploring how our fallen world views the Gospel, the good news that Jesus Christ came to display the glory of God by dying on a cross for our sins. We'll find how God's wisdom is different from man's wisdom, and how an understanding of God's wisdom is key to sharing our faith in this fallen world.



For I am **Not**  
ashamed **of the Gospel,**  
for it is the **Power of**  
**GOD** for the  
salvation  
of everyone **1:16** ☆  
who believes **Romans**

### **1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (NET Bible)**

<sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—and not with clever speech, so that the cross of Christ would not become useless.

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will thwart the cleverness of the intelligent.*” <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made the wisdom of the world foolish? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world by its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased to save those who believe by the foolishness of preaching. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks ask for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach about a crucified Christ, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. <sup>24</sup>But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NET Bible)**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with superior eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to be concerned about nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My conversation and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on the power of God.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?



③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. Do you ever feel like you will seem foolish when you share the Gospel? Why? How can you overcome this feeling?

13. When we share the Gospel, is it okay to use logic and persuasion to convince someone that Jesus Christ really died on the cross for our sins? Why or why not? (Hint: Acts 17:16-34, 18:4)

14. What are some attitudes and approaches we can use in sharing the Gospel with people from a culture that view it as fairy tales for the ignorant?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

**SERMON NOTES**