

Sermon: Who Is Wise: Two Kinds of People?

Text: I Corinthians 1:18-2:5 ESV

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Introduction: The gospel writers, Apostles John and Paul, have many things in common in the way they present ideas that are opposites. Here Paul makes it clear that spiritually there are only two kinds of people in the world: those who are perishing and those who are being saved (v.18). The Bible constantly talks about two kinds of people in the world: wise and foolish, weak and strong, etc.

I. A _____ of Power (1:18-25)

A. _____ block (v. 23)

B. _____ (v. 23)

II. A _____ of Power (1:26-31)

III. A _____ of Power (2:1-5)

Conclusion: Illus. of a changed life that changed me - Cy (Ruth) Hall
Too often we try to talk people into becoming Christians on the basis of apologetics or air-tight arguments, when what they really need to see and hear is Jesus in us, and how much we care.

What is the cross?

Can I say it this way? It is to sit for a few minutes on the lap of God, who hurts because you hurt.

Paul said, 'I have to preach that.' So do I...and so do you!

I Corinthians 1:18-2:5 ESV

18 For the word of the cross is folly 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,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2:1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony [*mystery*] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.