



THE CROSS

APRIL 1, 2024

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 NKJV – (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.

Paul now begins to expand on his statement from the end of **verse 17**: that Christ did not send him to focus on words of eloquent wisdom as he preached the gospel, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. Paul divides the world into two groups of people: those who are perishing and those who are being saved. Those perishing are destined for eternity apart from God, while those being saved are destined for an eternity of sharing in God's glory.

The cross is the most widely-recognized Christian symbol in the world, adorning millions of churches and chapels. While it's nice to see this symbol so accepted, it's easy to lose sight of what the cross was originally used to represent. Reexamining its origins puts the cross in an entirely new light.

The cross is more than the near-universal symbol of Christianity. This simple design carries the message of love, finality, fulfilled promises, and more to people around the world.

The cross of Christ was foolish to the pagan culture because Jesus Christ was rejected by His own people and crucified like any other common criminal by the Roman machine. From the Greek and Roman perspective, that was no kind of god to worship. For those who are being saved, because of their faith in Christ, the cross is understood to be God's most powerful act.

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 19:30

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "God hold us to that which drew us first, when the Cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else."