

## *Word of the Cross*

### **1 Corinthians 1:18**

**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.**

Starting with Adam and Eve there have always been human beings who feel that they know better than God and his ways. The Jews, at Jesus' time, were insistent on a conquering hero who would get rid of their enemies, instead of a suffering servant. The Greeks of that time, especially the Greek philosophers prized wisdom.

Paul has been arguing that reliance on one's skill as a speaker can rob the cross of Christ of its power. He now sets out to cure the Corinthians of their fascination with rhetoric. After all, they should know that no matter how well they dress up the word of the cross, the world will always find it unpalatable. For the world marches to a different drummer. Its enthusiasm always is for whatever seems attractive and successful.

Interestingly, the Greek word for "folly" is the English word for "moron."

The word of the cross is the power of God and is the instrument of God's salvation. According to Paul's teaching, we believers are surrounded by salvation – past, present, and future. We have been saved by grace in the past, we are now day by day in the process of being saved, a process which continues until we are finally saved on the last day.

Romans 1:16 summarizes it well where Paul states: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" The Greek word for "power" is our word for "dynamite." It suggests a miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself).

Christ is the power of God for salvation. Jesus Christ is God incarnate, and as such He possesses all the power of God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give Your people grace to recognize that all praise belongs to You alone. Amen.  
(TLSB)