

Truth for the Troubled Church
1 Corinthians: 1:18-25

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What about "the word of the cross" makes it "foolishness" to some but "the power of God" to others (vs 18)
3. When Paul references the cross our modern ears can hear those words in light of all we know about Christ and our faith, but when the letter was written the cross was the instrument of one of the most terrible kinds of death. How does remembering this idea change the way you read this passage?
4. Why is it significant that the tenses of the verbs "are perishing" and "are being saved" (vs 18) describe works in progress?
5. Who are the "wise" and the "clever" (vs 19) voices of today?
6. Verse 21 says, "the world through its wisdom did not come to know God." While we often look to wise people for knowledge, describe a profound lesson you learned about God from an unexpected source.
7. The most educated circles of our society, such as our university systems, tend to have the least regard for God. Why do you think that is, and how can we change it?
8. In verses 22-23 Paul says that the Jews looked for signs and the Greeks looked for wisdom, but God instead gave them Christ crucified. As you have shared the Gospel with others how much do you (or should you) rely on illustrations of the miraculous or intellectual arguments, compared with the truth of Christ's death on the cross?
9. Describe a time when following the 'wisdom' of the world lead you to trouble, and another time when the 'foolishness' of the Gospel brought you blessing.