

The Foolishness of God

April 4, 2010 – Jeff Gunn

¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25, NIV)

God's answers are _____ and _____.

God's thinking is—

- _____
- _____
- _____, not _____
- _____, not _____

The gospel breaks down old _____.

¹The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. (Proverbs 28:1, NIV)

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. (2 Corinthians 3:12, NIV)

Notes _____

1. God's "foolishness" is really _____.

Is God a _____ for _____?

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13, NIV)

²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. ²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. (John 5:20-21, NIV)

Notes _____

2. God's "foolishness" is really _____.

_____ is stranger than _____!

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6, NIV)

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, NIV)

⁹However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10, NIV)

Notes _____

3. God's "foolishness" is really _____.

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Take the Easter challenge. Commit to joining us for the next four weeks and completing *The Foolishness of God* series at CrossWalk.
- Stay connected. You invited a friend to church. Invest in a cup of coffee at Starbucks (how can they resist?) and ask how it went.
- Meditate on and memorize 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 25.