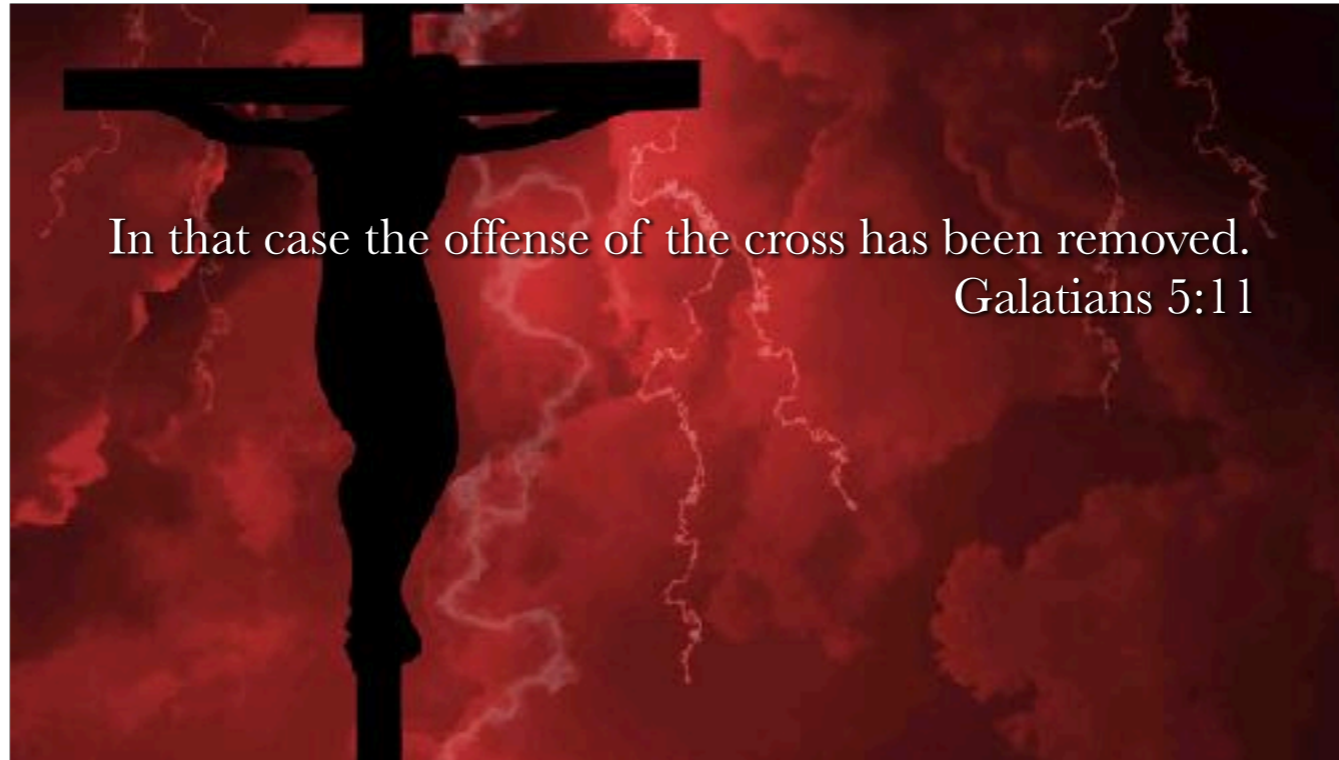
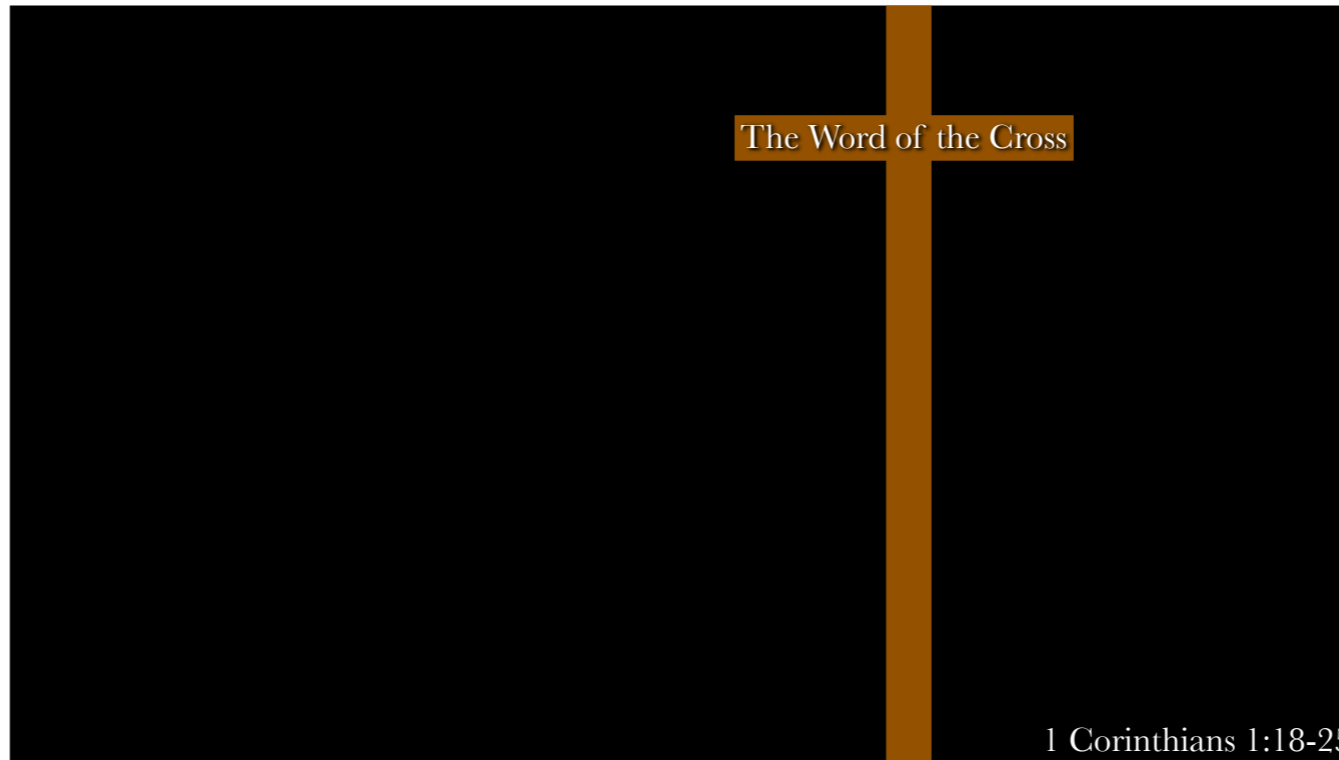


- The Offense of the Cross
- Galatians 5:11



In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.
Galatians 5:11

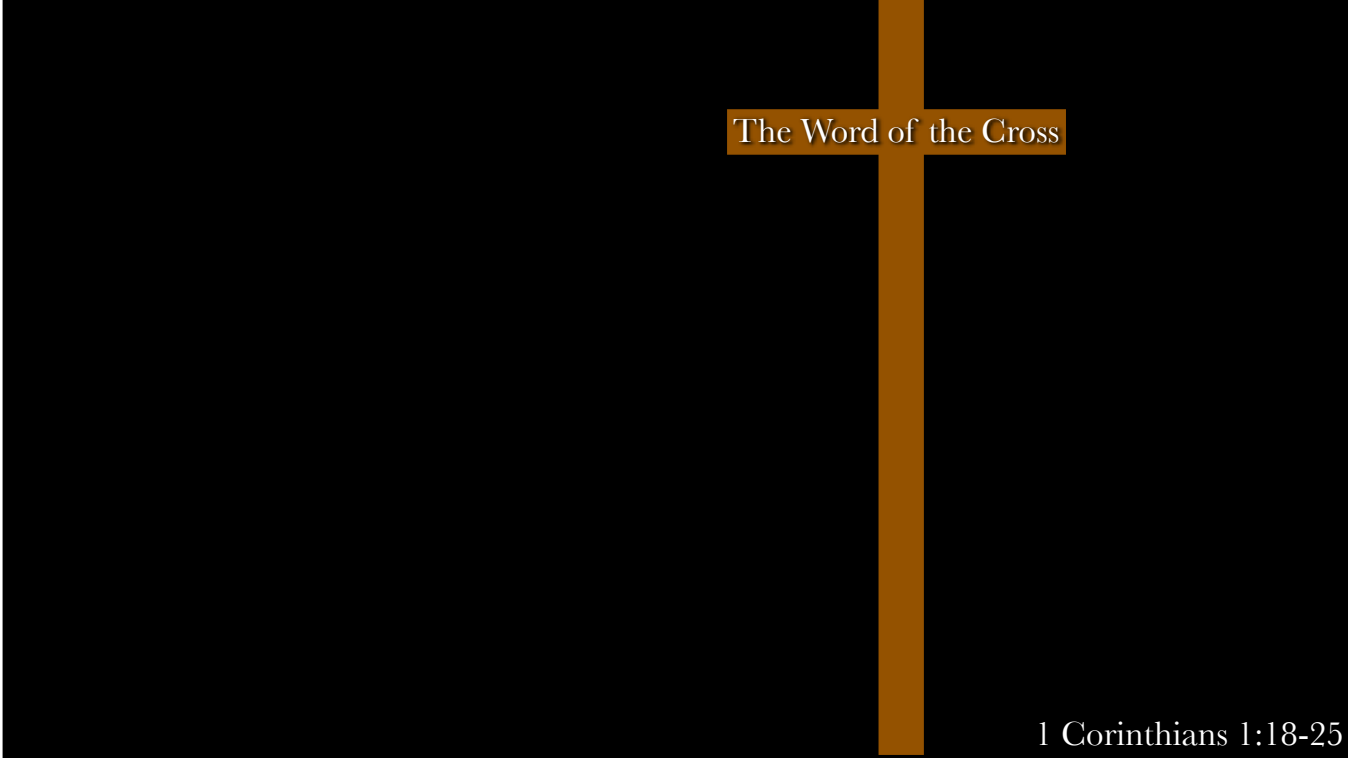
- Galatians 5:11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.
- How is the cross an offense?
 - (CWSB Dictionary) Skándalon always denotes an enticement to conduct which could ruin the person in question.
 - In the NT skándalon is used figuratively in a moral sense. It is concerned mainly with the fact that it produces certain behavior which can lead to ruin
 - As a cause of offense and indignation, a scandal (Matt. 16:23).



- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 — 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.



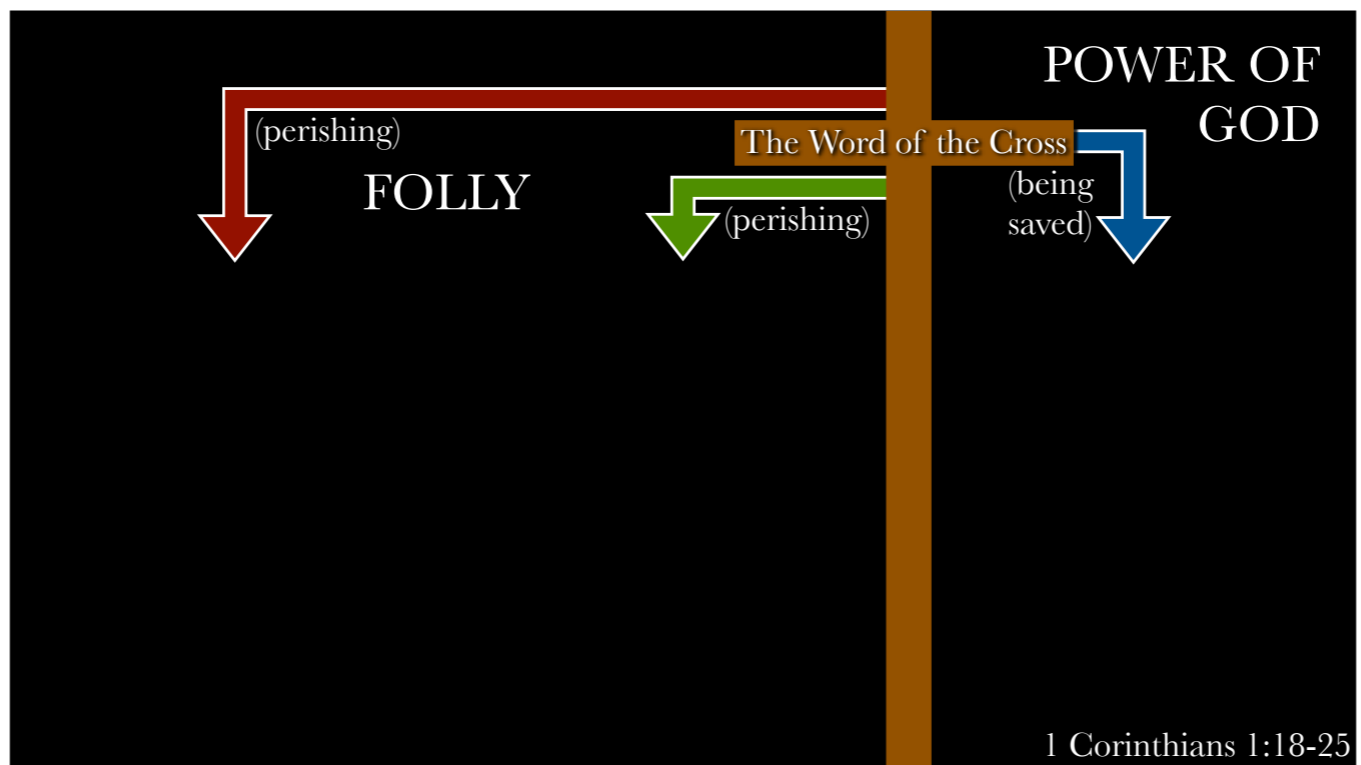
- The Word of the Cross
 - Paul provides us with how the word of the cross offends
 - It's very focused on what the church in Corinth was facing



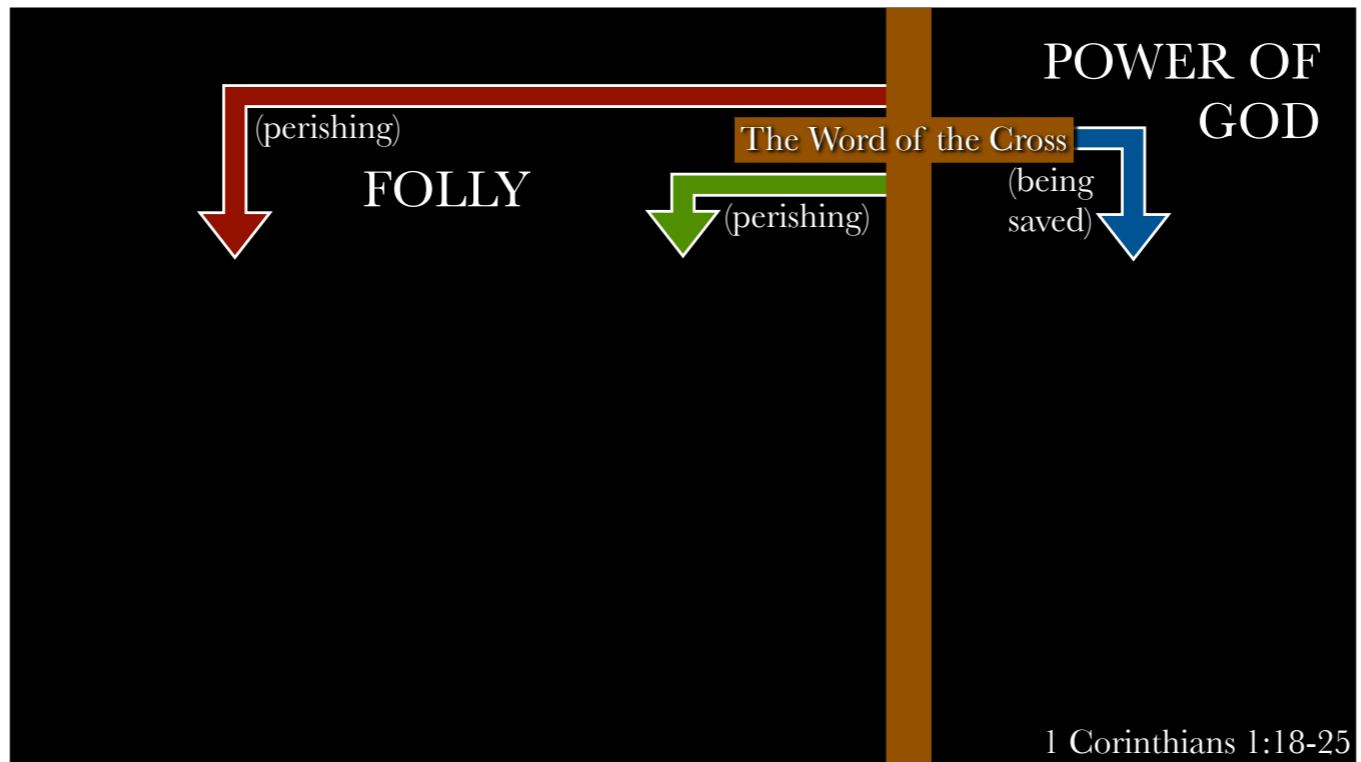
The Word of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

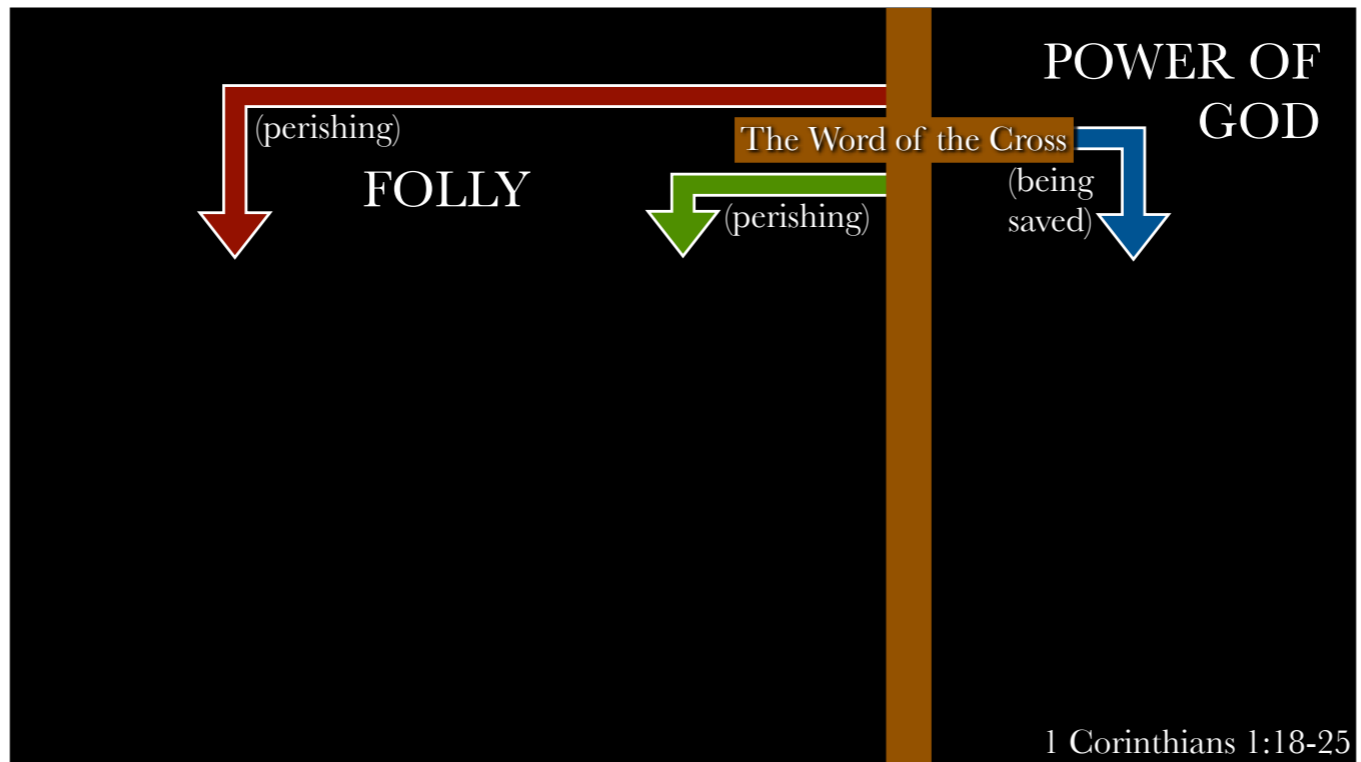
- So we must use this to find understanding for us today.
- Facing our own struggles with the cross
- Because the point is not just that some will find believing the salvation through Jesus' death on the cross difficult
- But that we can be prepared for some opposition
- And we can be prepared to help them see truth, the power and the wisdom of God in these things



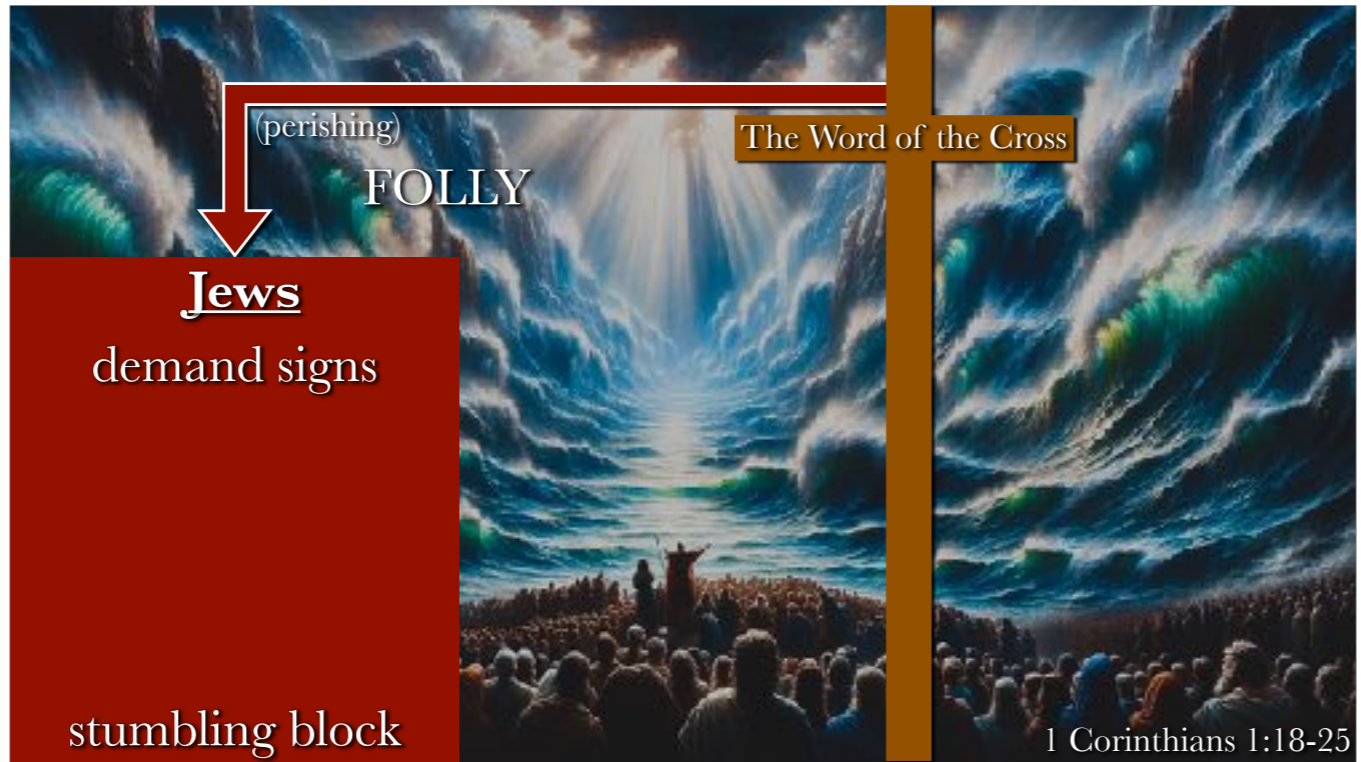
- 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



- Folly is a strong word.
 - foolishness, absurd
 - It is easily dismissed as being not worth considering
 - It doesn't make sense, it isn't logical, it isn't rational from the world viewpoint
 - It doesn't exhibit power and certainly doesn't seem awe-inspiring from the view of the world
 - Passage of time has only exacerbated this common conclusion
 - books and philosophies



- Note also that those who find the cross to be foolishness are PERISHING
 - John 3:16 (ESV) 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



- Why is the word of the cross an offense to the Jews?
- Jesus did promise a sign: The Sign of Jonah: Matthew 12:38-40



- Jesus did promise a sign: The Sign of Jonah: Matthew 12:38-40
- Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”
- 39 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign,
 - but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
 - 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish,
 - so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.



- Demand signs
 - Signs here is being used as demonstrations of power that would prove that Jesus is the chosen one, the Messiah promised in the OT (anticipating)



- Historically, Jehovah had provided signs at very landmark moments for Israel
 - Judgments in Egypt — 10, not just for the Egyptians!, know that Jehovah is only God
 - Parting of the Red Sea — redeemed from Egypt
 - Appearance of Sinai at giving of law
 - Jericho's fall entering promised land
 - Elijah and Elisha, the prophets, to bring them back from rampant idolatry
 - So why wouldn't they expect signs for the coming of the Messiah?



- The problem is really not just the signs though
 - John: John 20:30-31 — Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



- John 12:37-43 — 37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” 39 Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, 40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” 41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. 42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.



- Even as Jesus is dying on the cross, demanding a sign
 - Mark 15:31-32 — So also the chief priests with the scribes **mocked** him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.



- What did they want to see?
 - Matthew 26:53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
- darkness for 3 hours, earthquake, resurrections, veil torn



- Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
 - Psalm 22 — prophecy given specifically to help them identify the Messiah at this very moment in time
- But they mocked
 - And therefore were offended
 - And stumbled



- Why is the word of the cross an offense to the Greeks?
 - Greeks, here, probably isn't just referring to people from Greece.
 - Rather, all those who were not Jews, and had followed the paths of idolatry
 - On the other hand, the Corinthians are Greeks, and Greeks are still famous for their pursuit of wisdom.

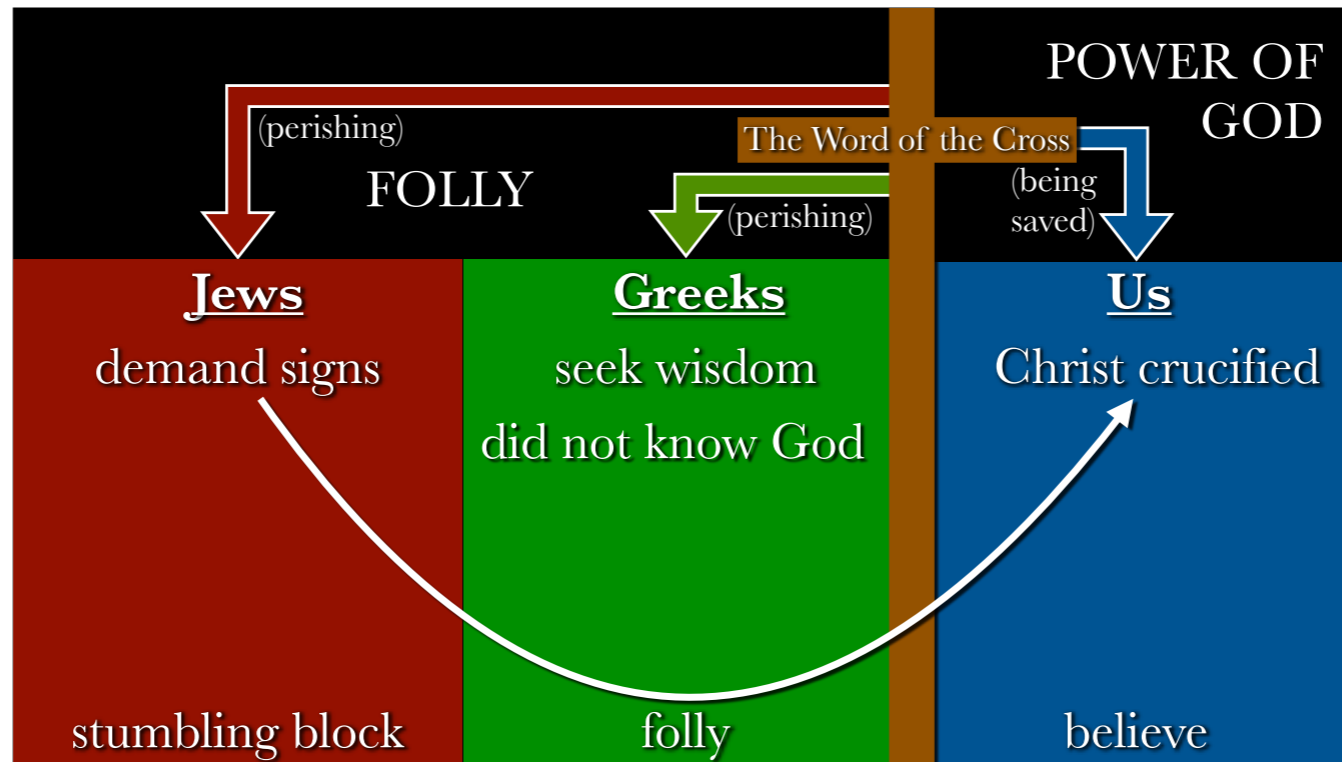


- Seeking Wisdom

- Acts 17:21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.
- Acts 17:18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

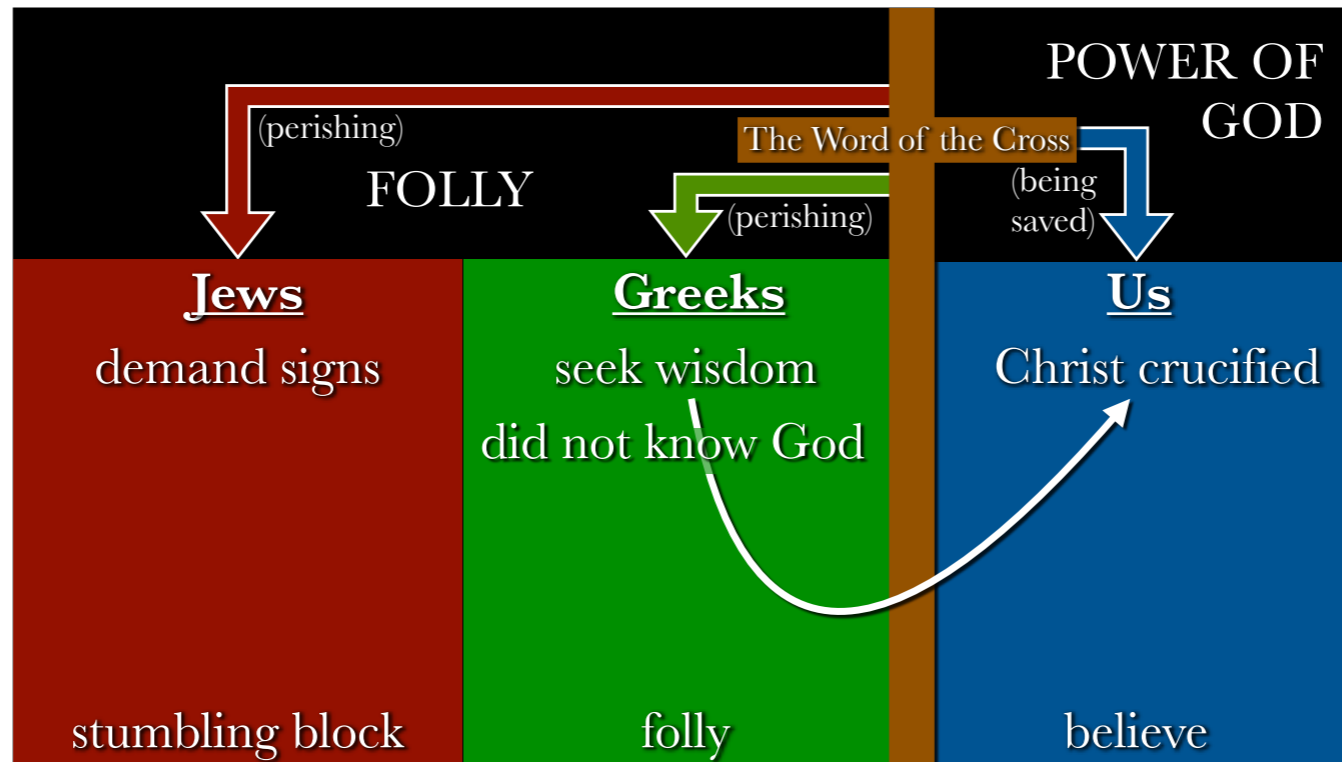


- But in seeking wisdom, they had turned away from God
 - Romans 1:21-23 — For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

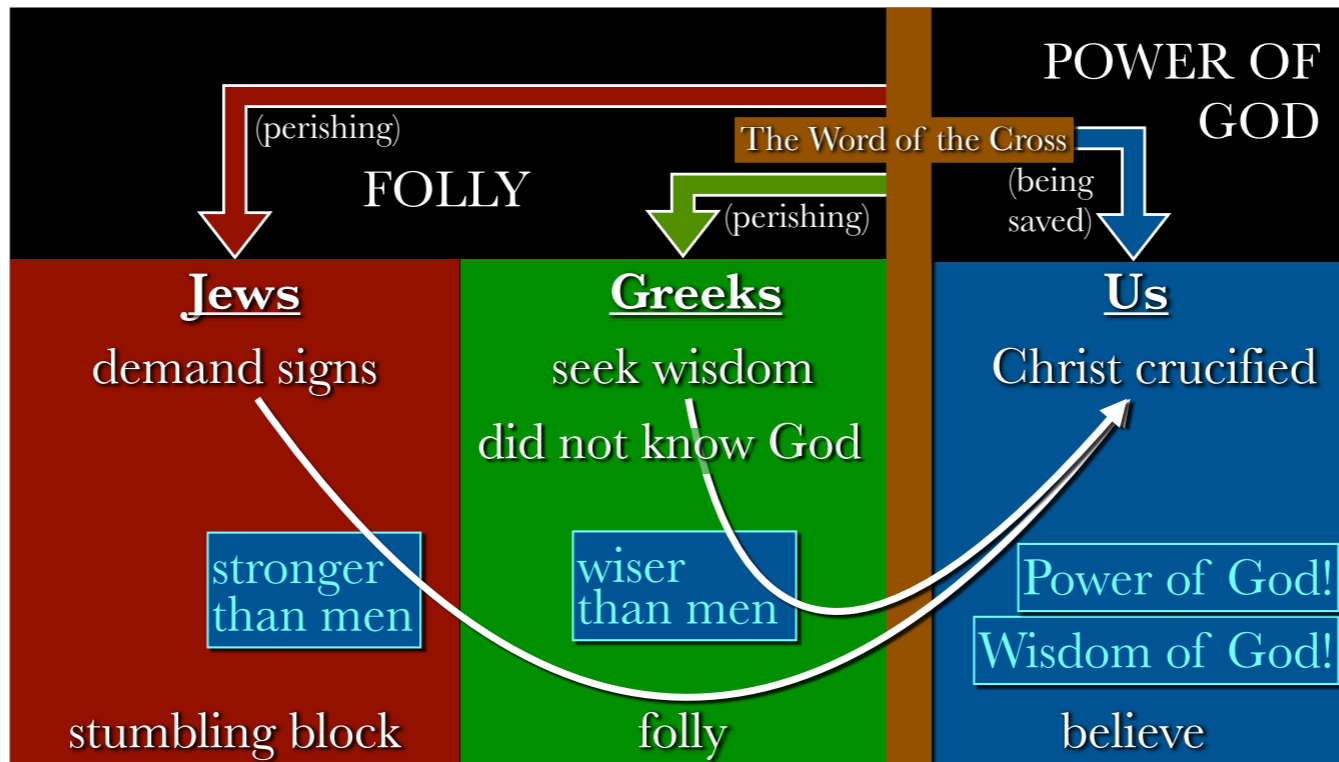


• Why is the word of the cross an offense to the Jews?

- Because to them looking at Jesus dying on the cross along with criminals was not the demonstration of power they wanted or expected from their Messiah, Savior, and king.
- There's no power in dying
- They see weakness and failure



- Why is the word of the cross an offense to the Greeks?
 - When they look at Jesus on the cross being crucified, what do they see?
- Foolishness
 - The one who is to save us is dying?
 - The one who is to be king is dying?
 - How does one man dying atone for all man's sin?



- 1 Corinthians 1:23-25 — 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.



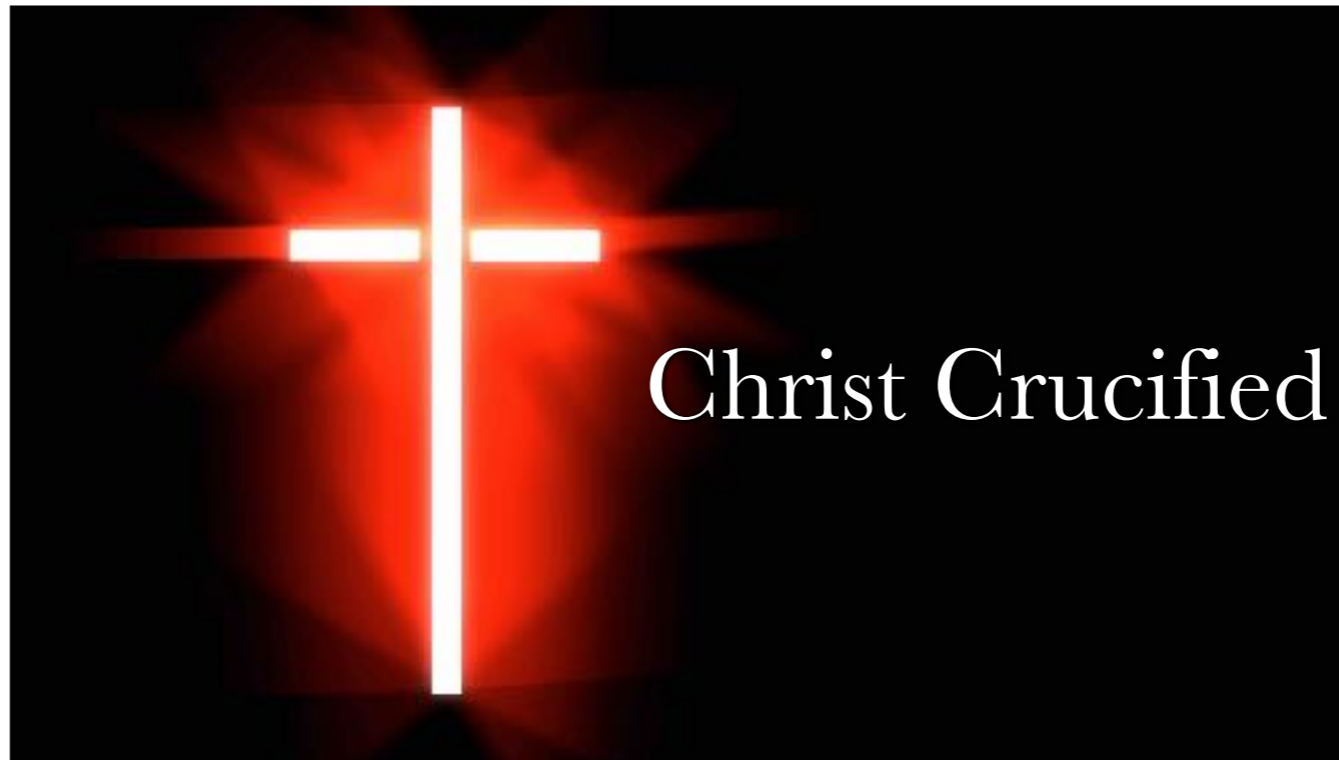
- Is the cross an offense to you?
- Why is the cross an offense to you?
- How do you react to the cross?
 - We needed to understand all that went before so we could be ready for this question and decision.



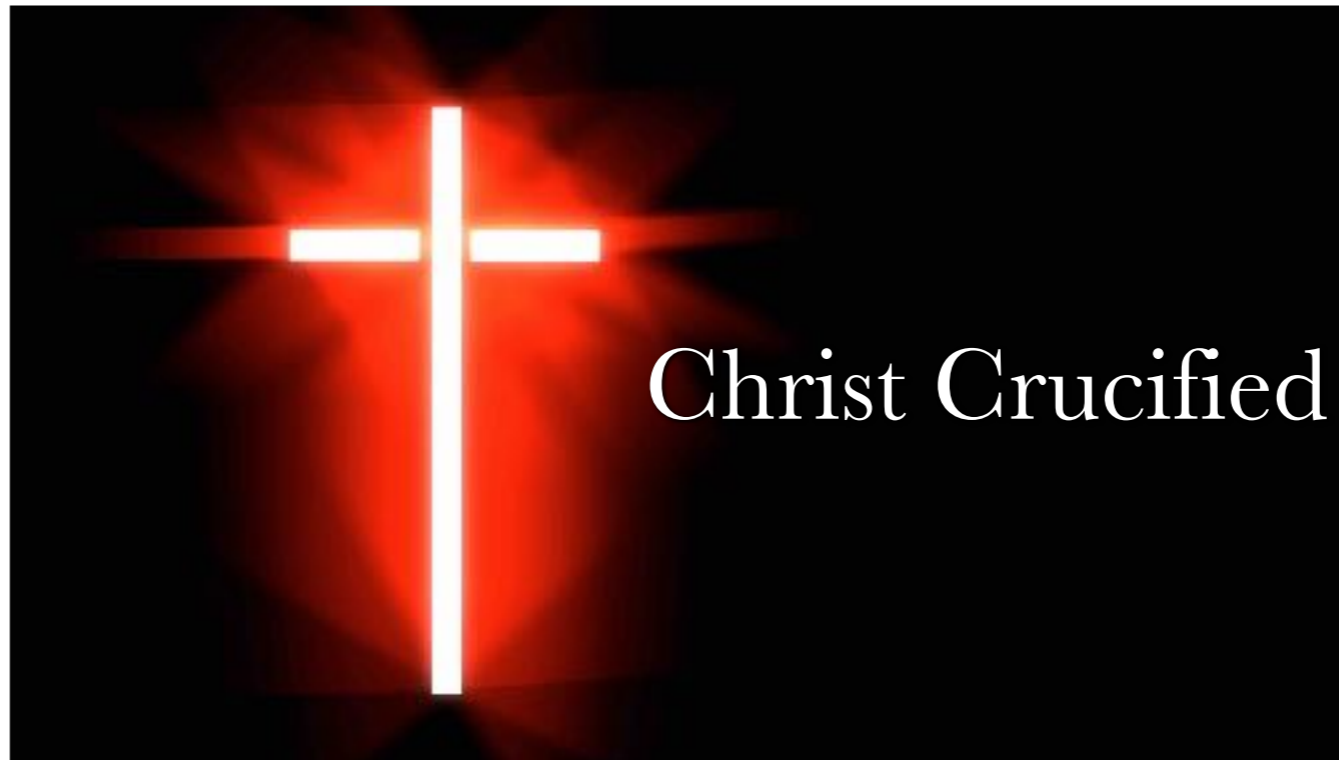
- Does it measure up to your concept of wisdom?
 - the philosophies and thoughts and understandings of man
 - hundreds of years of thinking
 - and now science
 - But God is saying that we are not saved by good ideas, or idealism, or science



- Does it measure up to your concept of Power?
 - But it looks weak and failed
- Does it seem immoral?
 - One man dying to save others from their sin?
- Does it seem to dependent?
 - We can save ourselves, we can save our planet
 - I can save myself from my failures and mistakes and errors
- The cross offends because it says that I need more, that I'm not strong enough, wise enough, or good enough to save myself



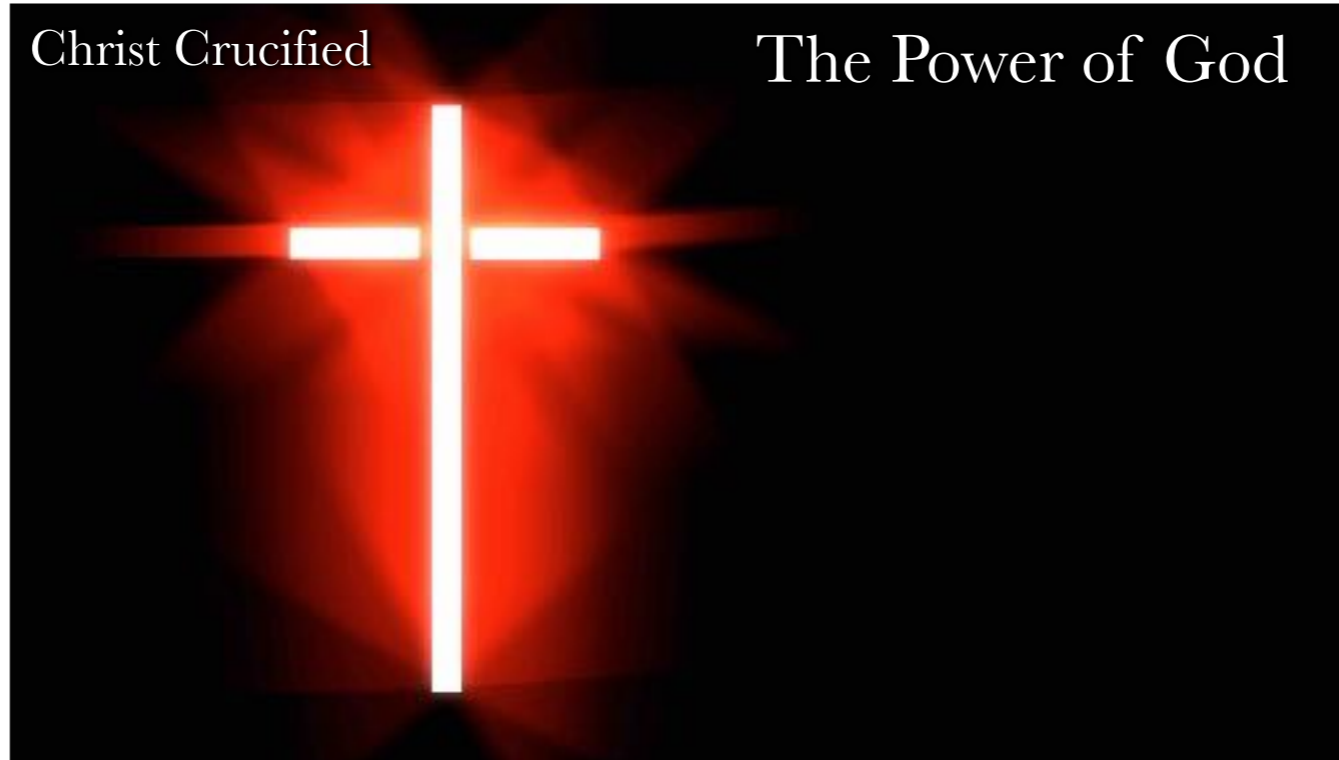
- We Preach!
- To Those who Believe ... Saved
 - Our God answers these questions about the cross.
 - Do I hear them?
 - Will I accept them?



- 1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.
- Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Christ Crucified

The Power of God



- He is the Power of God

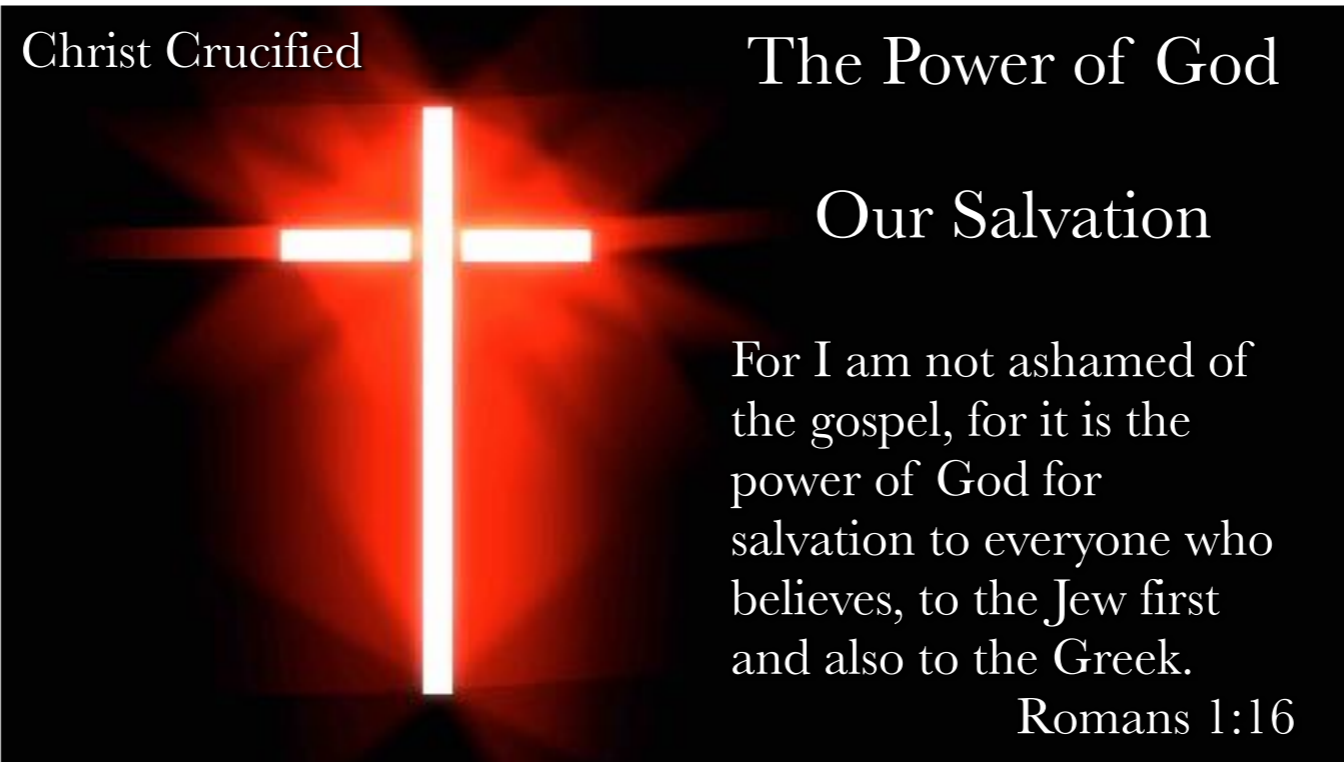
Christ Crucified

The Power of God

Our Salvation

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16



- Salvation
 - Romans 1:16-17 — For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

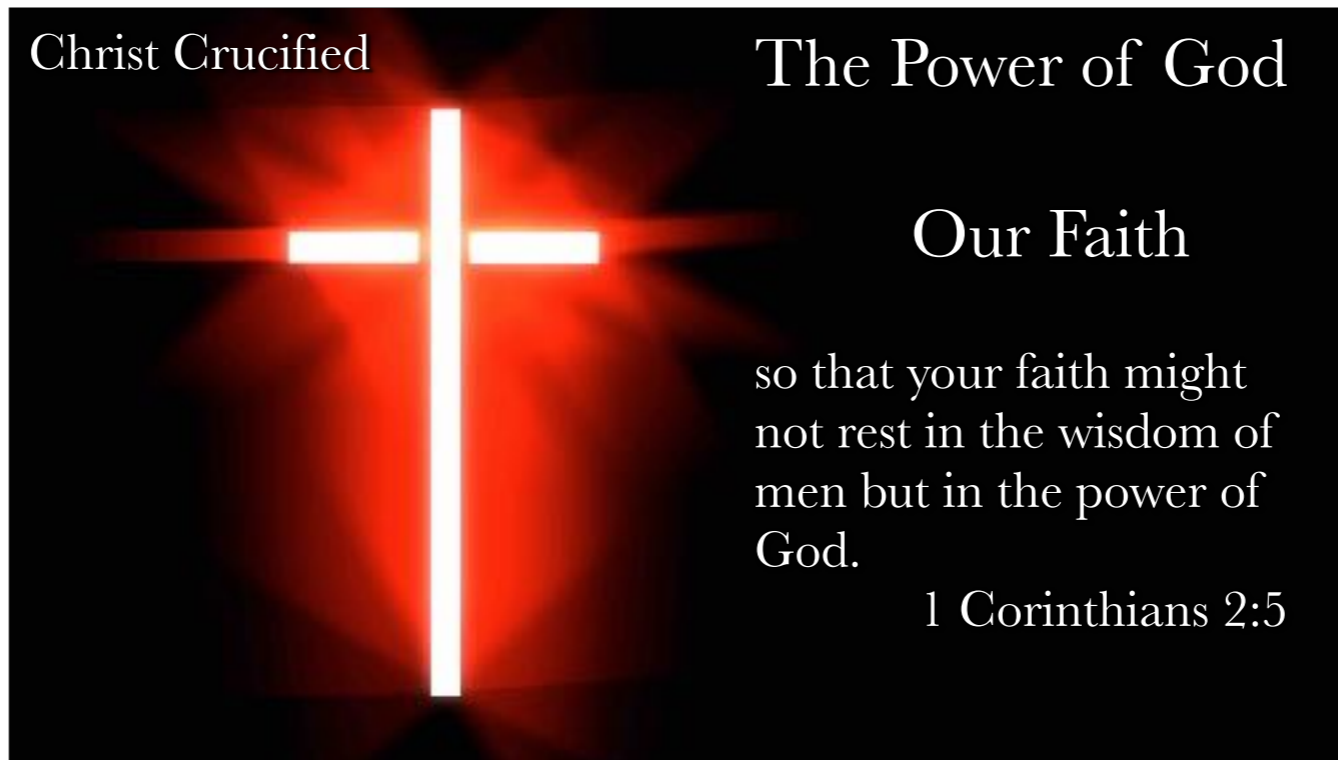
Christ Crucified

The Power of God

Our Faith

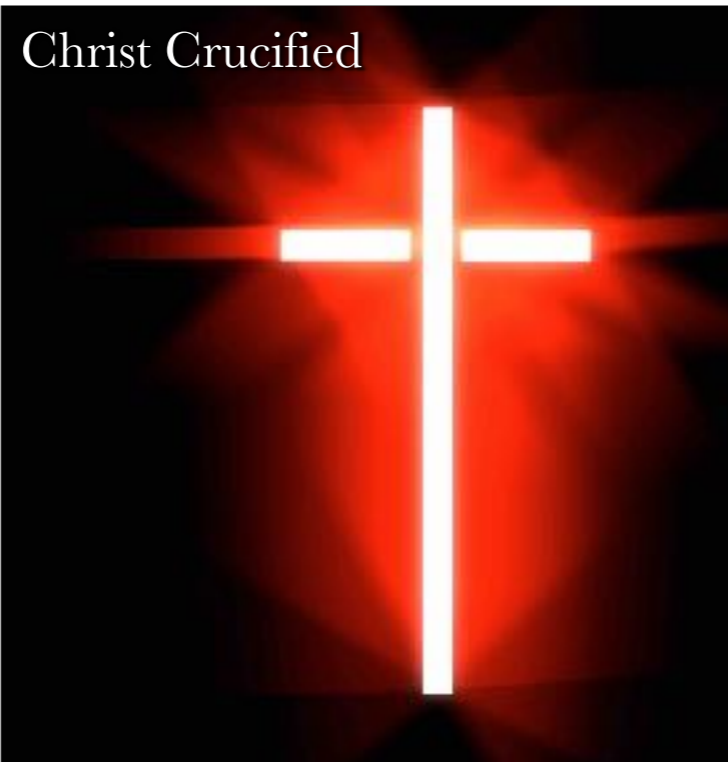
so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5

A glowing white cross is centered on a black background. The cross is surrounded by a bright red, ethereal glow that radiates outwards, creating a halo effect. The text is arranged around the cross: 'Christ Crucified' is at the top left, 'The Power of God' is at the top right, 'Our Faith' is in the middle right, and the quote from 1 Corinthians 2:5 is at the bottom right.

- Faith
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 — 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.

Christ Crucified



The Power of God

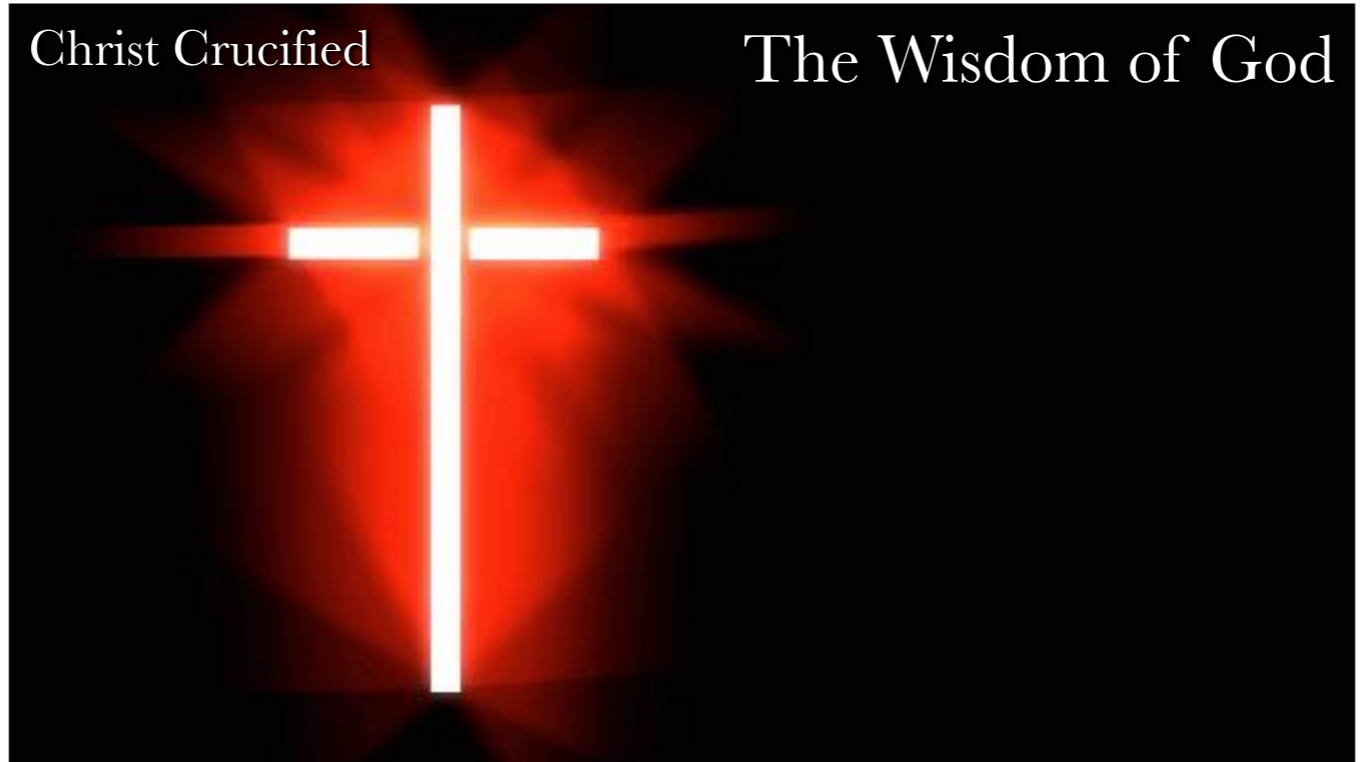
Our Life

For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

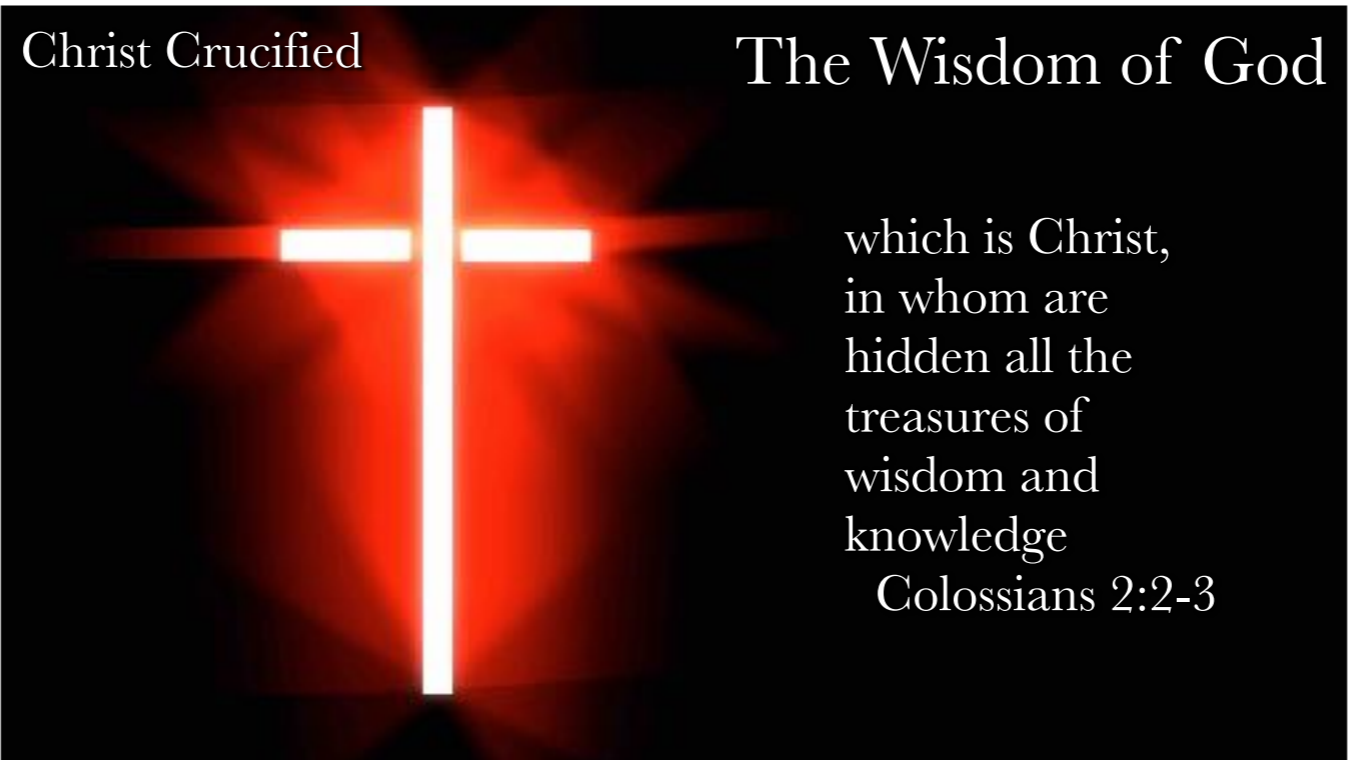
2 Corinthians 13:4

- Life

- 2 Corinthians 13:4 For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

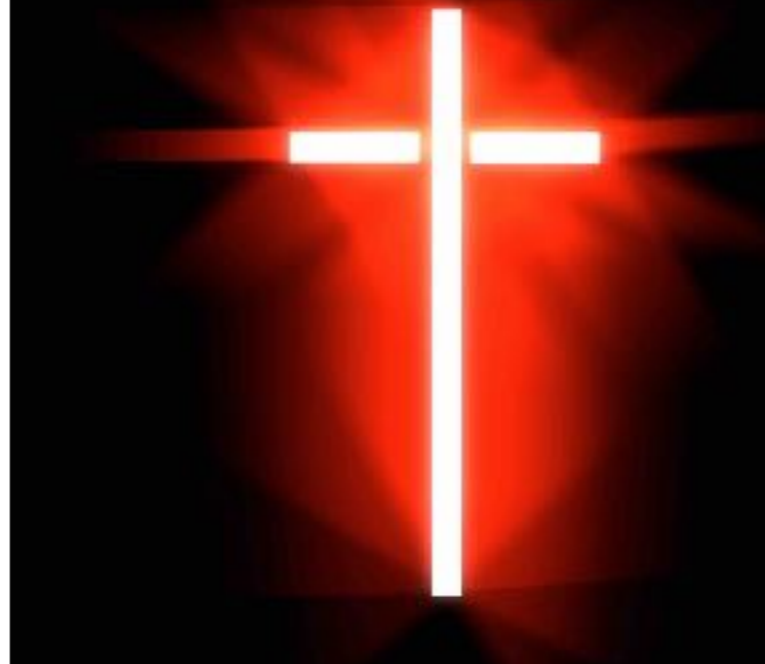


- He is the Wisdom of God



- He is the Wisdom of God
 - Colossians 2:2-3 — that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Christ Crucified



The Wisdom of God

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, *through the knowledge of him* who called us to his own glory and excellence,

2 Peter 1:3

- 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Christ Crucified

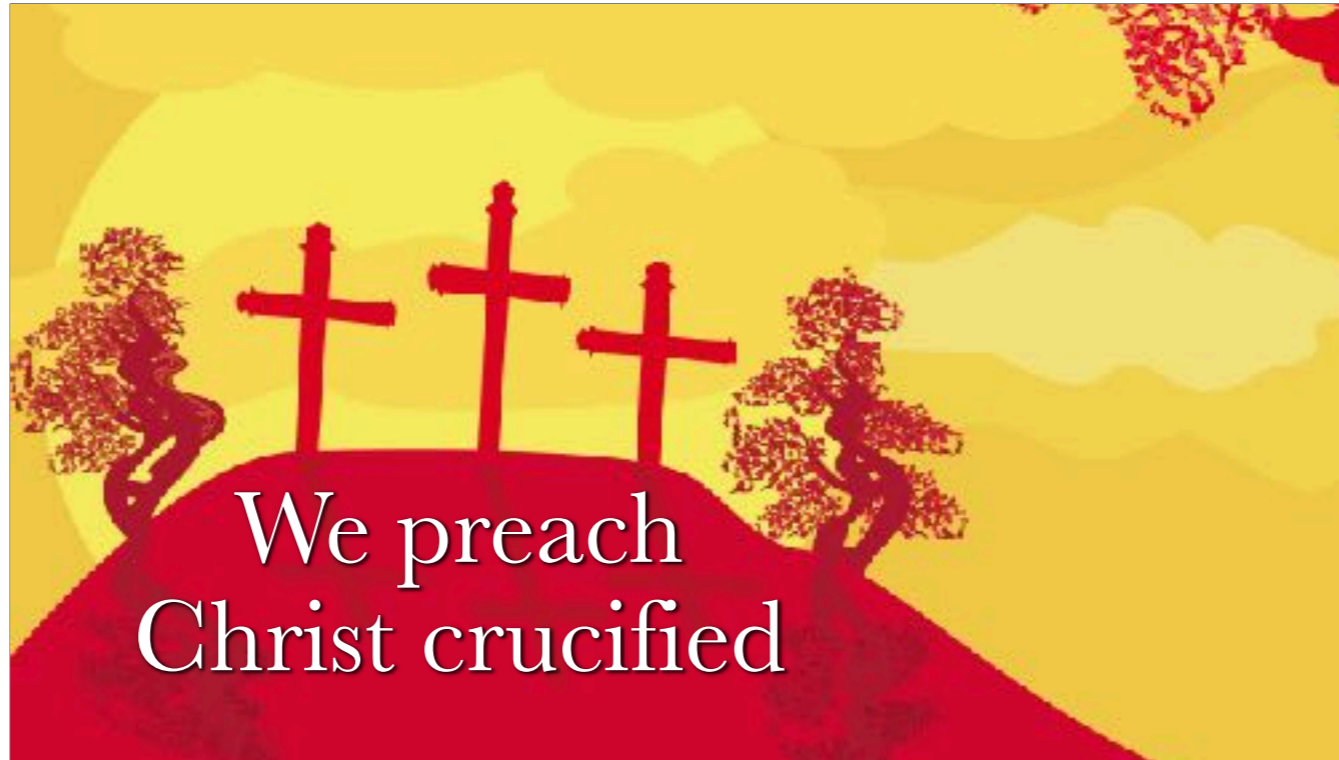


The Wisdom of God

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17-18

- James 3:17-18 — But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



- When you look at the cross, how do you react to it?
 - It's okay if you struggle with the idea that this is the way we can be saved.
- Will you accept this as the power and wisdom of God?
- Jesus offers that you die together with him to be saved
 - Believe in him
 - Repent and be baptized

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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The Offense of the Cross

Galatians 5:11

Synopsis: The cross is offensive to some because of its apparent weakness and foolishness. In this lesson we consider the roots of that along with striving to understand why I might be offended by the cross. The lesson concludes with reminders of why the cross is the power and the wisdom of God.
(Adapted from The Cross by Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”