



## CrossWise Crossword– Pastor Brett Fuller

**Sunday, March 10, 2013**

**1Cor 1:18-31** For the word of the cross is foolishness 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 CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." **20** Where is the wise man? 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 through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. **22** For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; **23** but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **26** For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; **27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, **28** and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, **29** so that no man may boast before God. **30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, **31** so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

- The cross as a concept has been diluted over time; the idea of a cross is

distasteful; we have crosses as jewelry which is not what it ever was intended to be.

- If you wear a cross, may it be a reminder – if worn near your heart, may it be a reminder of the need for an open heart; if in your ear, may it be remind you to hear thru the cross.
- Jesus made the cross the instrument of our definition, of our discipleship; yet the cross has become a symbol of our eternal security and going to heaven.
- Yet Christ intended us to take up our cross and follow him into death everyday.

**I. Silly To the Perishing?; vs. 18a** – talk today on 3 levels – the “silliness” of the idea, the strength of the Cross, and the “wisdom” of God’s strategy

- a. People don’t like the declaration that the cross is needed – that it stands in confrontation of man’s need, his accountability.
  - i. People really don’t want the garden with a tree that holds them accountable to God for their obedience.
  - ii. They want the “garden of ‘Hedon’” with as much freedom as they desire; but there is none because there is always accountability – someone has to pay for the wroing done.
  - iii. We don’t want the accountability of the garden of Eden where God rules, where there are implications, consequences for disobedience
  - iv. The sin can’t be wiped away because the scales don’t balance out. The judgment of disobedience is death – separation from God. Justice demands that sin be punished; God cannot/will not compromise his justice.
  - v. God didn’t want his creatures to die for the disobedience, but punishment had to come
- b. People don’t want the accountability, but they don’t like the “means” of the cross – why didn’t God extend greater love.
  - i. But God intended there to be a choice that is valuable and makes what is chosen special
  - ii. God didn’t make us robots. He put the tree in the garden of the Knowledge of Good & Evil that we might CHOOSE God’s will
  - iii. The only thing that will suffice is a perfect obedience – where the first Adam failed, a Second Adam was needed who could come and obey God perfectly and then could take the accountability on himself in our stead.
- c. Jesus was able to pay for our sins because He had no sin of his own to pay for. As such He became the substitutionary provision for us. He paid our penalty.
  - i. We are continually confronted with the limitless love that God

- gave for us.
- d. God's love is sure – his act in Christ is the eternal assurance of his love. He held nothing back, yet we often get mad at the Provider and we forget what He has done.
  - i. We forget all the good things that He has done
  - ii. God, in his mercy, has overlooked so much and we must not forget his mercy and providence
  - iii. While we were intent on doing what we want, God was long suffering

## **II. Strength Of God To Those Being Saved; vs. 18b**

- a. The Cross is the power of God for our salvation – the strength of God for salvation
  - i. It is to be rejoiced in every day
  - ii. We need to take up the cross every day – there are things we are to do, to suffer as Christ did to demonstrate the love of God extended toward them
  - iii. We are called to embrace the cross daily to live for others and bring the reality & hope of salvation to the world around us
- b. In it we find mercy, hope
- c. The punishment He endured disfigured him...it was not possible to tell who the Man was
- d. He suffered undeservedly – in obedience to God for us
  - i. It is God's power whereby we don't have to die
  - ii. Suffered so we wouldn't have to
  - iii. Rejected so we could be accepted
- e. He actually became sin so that we could become righteous, He became the ugliest of all things and took upon himself that punishment that we deserve
- f. He was fully rejected by God so that we could be FULLY accepted
  - i. He was not conditional or limited in his mercy; all has been forgiven by putting the punishment for it all on Christ
  - ii. God accepts us: though we've been rejected everywhere else, He accepts us.
- g. God likes us and stays with us
- h. The cross is that which gives us the privilege of being called disciples.
  - i. "Whoever does not pick up his cross and follow Christ, cannot be his disciple."
  - ii. The Cross is the distinguishing things
- i. Too many Christians are following Christ without the Cross – they follow him for the blessings
  - i. The cross needs to be found at work in every aspect of our

- lives – in our wallet, our appetites
- ii. Too often we follow because He makes our lives better
- iii. Christians are to start with death when they first believe, but then we are to pick it up every day.
- iv. Discipleship is proven by our taking up of the cross
- v. There is to be no difference between being a Christian and being a disciple
- vi. No one knows we are his followers unless we take up the cross EVERY DAY.
- j. We are to pick up our cross the first thing and bear it all day long – we must not be “Cross-less”
  - i. We are to take up our cross to lay down our lives for family, spouse, community; in doing so I become a disciple.
  - ii. The cross equals my becoming a disciple; sacrificing daily!

### **III. Stare At Your Calling; vs. 26**

- a. It is God’s strategy for change by “looking at how you were called” -- it was strength and wisdom and assurance to us
  - i. Every day we are to wrestle with what you are called to do in terms of God’s eternal purpose
  - ii. We are to consider – stare at – the consideration of what God intended us to be
  - iii. We are to look hard at what God has made us to be – in our weakness, in our foolishness we are made to find what He intends us to be
- b. “Not Many Wise” – when most are called, not many are wise
- c. God did not make it difficult and the cross was the strategy; the cross doesn’t stimulate the mind, doesn’t require inherent strength, or pedigree – all this was done so that
- d. Christ had the strength, the wisdom and the highest of all pedigree – but this is not what God used. It was not according to power, intelligence, or pedigree. The Cross was an “on ramp” that all men could use
- e. If it was according to these other things – strength, wisdom, pedigree – people could have depended on these.
- f. God’s intention: That none could boast in anything else except Christ and his death on the cross.
- g. Thru the cross, it is possible that ALL who believe in Christ can boast – not in themselves, but in what God has done for them.