

# The Word of the Cross

*Promise: the Word of the Cross grants us forgiveness and life eternal*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 4:18-31  
(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, 2/2/20)

*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. – v. 18*

**Lead In** – Concerning the message that the Jewish Messiah died a shameful death on the cross to atone for our sins, and then on the third day rose triumphantly from the grave, has been variously received through the years. Foolish, absurd, a made-up story is the response of many intellectuals. Not at all what we would have expected is the response of many religious folks who already had their minds made up how things should unfold. And what a weak, pathetic figure, others respond, we expect someone along the line of an Alexander the Great, a Julius Caesar, a Genghis Khan, a Napoleon Bonaparte, or the like. *But to us who are being saved...*

## I. The Expectation of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Judaism

- A. Kingly “Son of David”, heavenly “Son Of Man”...
- B. A deliverer, a conquering general, ushering in...
- C. The disciples expecting just such a thing...

## II. How Hard It Was For Them To Hear

- A. I have come to serve and give my life as...
- B. I have come to suffer and die...

## III. The Direction of Salvation Is Downward

- A. Unbelief, enthusiasm, pride led to our demise...
- B. In humility Jesus came all the way down...

**Parting Shot** – In Dante’s *Inferno* Satan is portrayed as a giant demon, frozen mid-breast in ice at the center of Hell. As Satan incessantly beats his wings, he creates a cold wind that continues to freeze the ice that entombs him. ...

**Isa 11:1** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

**Dan 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

**Jn 1:40-41** One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

**Mk 10:37** And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

**Lk 24:21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

**Ac 1:6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ESV

*Christ the Wisdom and Power of God*

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**Mk 10:45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**Mt 16:21** Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things ... and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

**Phi 2:7-8** [He] made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Indeed, blessed are *the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and those who are persecuted*, for YOUR reward is great in heaven.

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