

## GOD'S FOOLISHNESS VERSUS MAN'S WISDOM

1 Corinthians 1:18-30

By Raymond White

The most foolish thing that God ever did, whatever that may be, is infinitely wiser than the wisest thing man ever did. Solomon, arguably one of the wisest men who ever lived, summed up human wisdom in Ecclesiastes.

***Ecclesiastes 1:13** I gave my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done. **:18** But in much wisdom is much grief. [The more you know, the more you know you don't know.]*

***Ecclesiastes 2:1** Therefore enjoy pleasure. [So let's have a party] **:4** I made me great works; I builded me houses... **:8** I gathered also silver and gold...**:11** Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought and...there was no profit...[And why is that Solomon? Because] **:16** How dieth the wise man? As the fool. **:18** Because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.*

His point: After everything is said and done — we work, we build, we do great things and think great thoughts — we are still dogged by death. Death takes it all away from us and makes it all pointless. That haunted Solomon. So how wise can wisdom possibly be when no amount of wisdom can save us from death?

Now the flip side. God actually did something that saves us from death, and that, the world calls foolish.

***1 Corinthians 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved [Greek: σωζομένοις, sōzomenois, being saved], it is the power of God.*

God points to Christ on the cross and says to the world, "That's your salvation." And the world complains, "That's foolishness."

The world wants wisdom, something sensible, a strong savior with power, not a weak Christ hanging on a cross. But what we need to understand is that Christ and his cross are:

***1 Corinthians 1:24** 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.*

How is God's foolishness wiser than man's wisdom? How is God's weakness stronger than man's strength?

***1 Corinthians 1:30** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

God's foolishness and weakness gave to man what man's wisdom and strength could never give: forgiveness, immortality, and eternal life. If that's the dumbest thing God ever did, that's pretty smart, wouldn't you say?