

# Lesson 2: The Message of the Cross

## A. The focus of Paul's ministry in Corinth

1. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 2:2
2. How did the focus of Paul's ministry in Corinth differ from his ministry in Athens? (Acts 17:16-33)
3. What is the message of the cross Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:17-18? Luke 23:26-47, 1 Peter 2:21-24, John 3:16, Romans 6:23, etc.
4. Paul called this message "the gospel"(good news). Why is the message of the cross good news?

## B. Foolishness to those who are perishing

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18a Why is the message of the cross foolishness to those who are perishing? (see also 1 Corinthians 2:14)
2. 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 Why was the thought of the Messiah being executed on a cross a stumbling block to the Jews? (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)
3. How would you respond to someone who says, "I don't see how the death of a Jewish carpenter on a Roman cross has any relevance for my life today"?

## C. The power of God for those who are being saved

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18 How is the message of the cross the power of God for those who are being saved?
2. Why is it important to remember that we are not trying to save ourselves but "being saved"? Ephesians 2:8-9
3. What miracle is possible for those who accept what Jesus accomplished through his death on the cross? Colossians 1:13-14
4. Who has helped you to grasp more fully what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross?
5. When did you personally accept Jesus as your Savior and give thanks to Him for what He accomplished for you on the cross?
6. How has your appreciation for the message of the cross grown since you first accepted Jesus as your personal Savior?
7. What is your response to the exclamation of Paul recorded in Galatians 6:14?

## D. The wisdom of God

1. 1 Corinthians 1:19-31 How does the wisdom of God differ from the wisdom of this world? (see also Jeremiah 9:23-24)
2. How was the wisdom of God fully revealed? 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30, John 14:8-9
3. What else was revealed about God through the life of Jesus and His death on the cross?
4. What is the most effective way to share this wisdom of God with those who view the message of the cross as foolishness?