

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF THE CROSS - ([SERMON MP3](#))

In preparation for the Easter season, let's take some time to think about the importance of the cross. What's the big deal with the cross anyways? Should we put its symbol in our churches? Was it just a brutal instrument of shame or is there more to its significance? What concepts of the cross have you heard from others? Be prepared to share your thoughts with the group.

“Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 6:14) The one thing Paul glories in, takes pride in, boasts in is the cross. Those are astonishing words when you consider the fact that the cross at the time of Paul was a thing of disgust and abhorrence.

- How is the concept of the cross considered in our day? What do people think of and how do they respond to the idea of a cross?

Have you ever considered the cross as part of God's plan? Look up (Acts 2:22-23) and write down how Peter refers to the cross/crucifixion

- But was it whipped up at the last minute? Was it devised because nothing else was working during Jesus' life? Look up (1Peter 1:18-20) for the answer. Also notice how John describes Jesus in (Revelation 13:8).
- How do these descriptions of God's plan for the cross impact you? What's so significant about all this?

The cross was not only part of God's plan, but it was also referenced frequently in prophecy. Look at what Peter says in (1Peter. 1:10-11). The Old Testament prophets spoke about the sufferings of the cross. Jesus knew these prophecies. He spoke on the road to Emmaus and explained the words of the prophets (Luke 24:25-27).

- Look up (Isaiah 53) and write down some of the prophecies of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.
- What other prophecies can you find in the Old Testament about Jesus' suffering? Write down a few and be prepared to share them with the group.

