**THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS**

1 Corinthians 1:1-31

Key Verse 1:18

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

1. Read verses 1-3. Who wrote this letter, and to whom is it written? Why does Paul introduce himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus? According to verse 2, what are the characteristics of the church of God? Why does Paul emphasize these things? What was his greeting to them (3)?
2. Read verses 4-9. On what basis does Paul give thanks for the believers in Corinth? How did they receive their spiritual gifts (Refer to Ac 18:8-11)? What does he believe about their future? Why did he believe this?
3. Read verses 10-17. What is Paul’s appeal to them? What contradictory report had he heard about them? In what sense was their quarreling a serious matter? How did Paul bring them back to the proper perspective (13-16)? What was the focus of Paul’s ministry (17)? Why did he emphasize the cross of Christ here?
4. Read verses 18-21. What are the two response to the message of the cross? How does God deal with human wisdom? How does God work to save people (21)? Why does Paul draw the contrast between human wisdom and God’s wisdom?
5. Read verses 22-24. What characterized Jewish and Greek culture? Despite this, what did Paul keep doing? What was his confidence?
6. Read verses 25-31. What kind of people were the Corinthians when they were called? Why did God call people like this? How and by whom had they been changed (30)? Why did Paul mention these things to them (31)?