

# IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOOLISH TO YOU?

*By Pastor Greg Hooker*

*"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18).*

**M**ore and more I see the first portion of this verse exemplified in our contemporary society. The death of Christ on the cross is to those who refuse to believe, foolish and irrelevant. However, this by no means catches us by surprise; the Word of God expressly prophesies the increase of unbeliever's and infidels just prior to the return of Christ. In stark contrast, those who have chosen to place faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ by simple child-like faith have experienced the power of God unto their salvation.

The scoffer would be quick to say, 'You cannot prove, or verify the existence of God, and they would be right in their assumption. It is an irrefutable fact you cannot position God under a microscope, nor can you place Him in a test tube and prove scientifically He is real. But on the other hand, neither can they prove He doesn't exist.

Nevertheless, there is concrete proof of a Supreme Being. That evidence lies in the inexplicable transformed life of every believer – those who had lived prior lives of horrendous sin and ungodliness, but were transformed instantaneously by the Gospel into a new creature. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (II Corinthians 5:17).

Over the span of my life I have seen many drunkards, rapists, murderers, liars, thieves and other immoral and ungodly individuals gloriously changed by the power of the Gospel. I could provide an extensive list of friends and family who dived in drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, and the occult, which gave their lives to Christ and were immediately converted and delivered. The overwhelming change God produced in their lives was like comparing night to day.

Subsequently, this is something you can only experience through the dynamic transformation of the New Birth. It can never be understood, or experienced by an individual who rejects and disclaims the authenticity of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (I Corinthians 2:14).

The atheist and agnostic cannot comprehend the reality of a Supreme Being residing and actively revealing Himself to the believer. That's why they vehemently deny the possibility of a Creator. Until such time the unbeliever is convicted of sin and extends a conscience act of faith, they will remain in spiritual darkness. Consequently, it's wasted effort to argue with someone dead in trespasses and sins

concerning Spiritual effects, “...*they are spiritually discerned*”. They must first have their spiritual eyes opened with the simple Gospel in order for the Light of God’s Word to penetrate their hearts.

Moreover, those who willfully reject the Holy Spirit’s conviction of sin and the clear Gospel message are perpetually committing the unpardonable sin. They are subjecting themselves to continual condemnation culminating in eternal damnation of both body and soul in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire. God will not, nor can He ever, forgive someone who rejects the Gift of salvation provided freely through His perfect sacrificial Lamb – refusal is categorically unpardonable!

It behooves each one of us, therefore, to “*examine ourselves and see if we are in the faith.*” Have we truly placed simple child-like faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, or are we daily committing the one sin God will never forgive – rejection of His Son? Every second we shirk the Gospel we are playing Russian roulette with our souls?

If you are not sure of your eternal destiny, today is your day! It isn’t a coincidence you are reading this message. Now is the time to settle once and for all the place you will spend eternity in. You have only two choices – Heaven, or Hell. To go to the everlasting flames of torment in Hell you only have to stay on your present course. But if you want to enjoy the splendor of Heaven, then you must confess, repent and place your faith in Jesus Christ as payment for your sins. Would you do that now by repeating this prayer, believing it from your heart?

Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sins on the cross. I believe Jesus was buried and rose from the grave to give me victory over death. I am willing to turn from my sins. I now ask Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life and be my personal Savior. I am willing, by God’s grace, to follow and obey Christ as the Lord of my life. Amen!

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