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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## The Foolishness of God

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

### Central Passage

*1 Corinthians 1:22–25 (ESV) — 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

**Central Thought:** Through the “foolishness” of the cross, God judges and supersedes all human wisdom – philosophical and religious – and provides salvation as an act of sheer grace which can only be humbly received, never achieved.

- ❖ God does not conform himself to our reasonable or religious expectations.

*Job 38:1–5 (ESV) — 1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? (See also all of Job 38, Isaiah 55:8-9)*

- ❖ God demonstrates his power and wisdom in the cross of Christ, and calls us to repentance and faith.

*Matthew 4:17 (ESV) — 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

*Romans 1:16–17 (ESV) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

- ❖ The work of God continues today, not primarily through the powerful, the brilliant or the overtly religious, but through the humble, the faithful and the obedient.

*Matthew 4:18–22 (ESV) — 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for **they were fishermen**. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

### Personal Application

- ❖ Read and reflect on today’s passage and the “See also” passages.
- ❖ Prayerfully consider where you might be expecting God to meet your expectations, rather than humbly responding to his call and grace in and through the cross of Christ.
- ❖ Repent of your selfishness and pride, and open your heart in faith to Jesus.