

***“The Ultimate Oxymoron”***

***“It is Finished” Part 5***

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

April 4, 2010

As we finish our Lenten study on the significance of the cross, we hear the words of Paul, who helps us see that the one way to see the cross is as what we might call ...

**The ultimate oxymoron = *“Christ crucified”***

*“We preach Christ crucified ...” (vs. 23)*

**This was *an offense to the religious mind* ...**

*“Christ crucified ... a stumbling block to the Jews” (vs. 23)*

**... because it was *so unspectacular* ...**

*Jews demand miraculous signs ... (vs. 22)*

**... because it was *seen as cursed***

*“... anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.” (Dt. 21:23)*

**This was *nonsense to the philosophical mind* ...**

*“Christ crucified ... foolishness to the Gentiles.” (vs. 23)*

**... because it was *so unsophisticated***

*“... and Greeks look for wisdom ...” (vs. 22)*

**... because it was *so worldly***

*“He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things ...” (vs.28)*

**But in reality *“Christ crucified”* is ...**

*“... we preach Christ crucified ... to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (vs.23-24)*

**... the *power of God* ...**

**... the *wisdom of God* ...**

**... and is affirmed by *“Christ resurrected”***

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