

***The Folly of the Cross According to the New York Times***  
**I Corinthians 1:17-2:5**

***I. According to the World's Wisdom, the Madness of the Message is Christ Crucified, I Corinthians 1:18-25***

**For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will thwart the cleverness of the intelligent." (Isa. 29:14). Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made the wisdom of this world foolish? **For Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks ask for wisdom, but we preach about a crucified Christ, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.** But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

- A. Christ Crucified is a Stumbling Block for the Jews
- B. Christ Crucified is Foolishness to the Gentiles (Folly, madness, stupidity, idiocy, silliness, craziness, recklessness)
- C. Christ Crucified is Narrow Thinking to Most People, including some Christians

Isaiah 29:13-16

The sovereign master says, "These people say they are loyal to me; they say wonderful things about me, but they are not really loyal to me. Their worship consists of nothing but man-made ritual. Therefore I will again do an amazing thing for these people – an absolutely extraordinary deed. Wise men will have nothing to say, the sages will have no explanations." Those who try to hide their plans from the LORD are as good as dead, who do their work in secret and boast, "Who sees us? Who knows what we're doing?" Your thinking is perverse! Should the potter be regarded as clay? Should the thing made say about its maker, "He didn't make me"? Or should the pottery say about the potter, "He doesn't understand"?

***II. According to the World's Wisdom, the Madness of the Messenger is Credentials Crucified, I Corinthians 1:26-31***

Think about the circumstances of your call, brothers and sisters. Not many were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were born to a privileged position. But God chose what the world thinks foolish to shame the wise, and God chose what the world thinks weak to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, what is regarded as nothing, to set aside what is regarded as something, so that no one can boast in his presence. He is the reason you have a relationship with Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD (Jer. 9:24)."

Jeremiah calls upon the wise, the strong, and the wealthy not to trust in their resources but in their knowledge of the true God!

***III. According to the World's Wisdom, the Madness of the Method is  
Communication Crucified, I Corinthians 2:1-5***

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with superior eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed the testimony of God. For I decided to be concerned about nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling. My conversation and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on the power of God.

**HOLY SATURDAY TABLE TALK:**

- For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when he suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who bore Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed. – I Peter 2:21-24
- If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving as an inheritance, for he who is hanged is accursed of God. – Deut. 21:22
- The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree (Acts 5:30) and “We are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree (Acts 10:39.”

Now that you read these verses and heard Fr. Tony's talk, why does the world consider the Christian message, messiah, and method as madness? How should we respond to them and live our lives before them?

March 21, 2008. Good Friday Service, Rev. Dr. Tony Baron, Senior Pastor/Rector. All sermons by Fr. Tony are on CD and can be picked up in the lobby after the service or can be heard on [www.saintanneschurch.net](http://www.saintanneschurch.net).