

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

You've got mail! A letter sent long ago to someone else, now by the power of the Spirit has been forwarded to you, so that you may grow in Jesus Christ.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Have you ever worn a cross? Why or why not? What does it mean to put a cross on the wall in our homes, or front and center in our sanctuaries? We sense that the cross is something more than a good luck charm. But what impact does it have?
- Paul's language is strong. In v. 23 he says the Greeks see the cross as "moros" (from which we get "moronic", though here translated "foolishness"), and the Jews see it as "skandalon" (from which we get "scandal", though translated here "stumbling block.") Why do you suppose the philosophically oriented Jews see it as a scandal? How do non-believers in America see the cross?
- Paul describes how the centrality of the cross impacts how God moves through the church in the world in vv. 26-28. We seek the best and the brightest for key roles. But the Lord is working a different plan. What is it? What examples have you seen of how he uses the foolish, weak, low, and despised to advance the Kingdom? What part of your life and experience synchs up with his strategy?
- If the cross is supposed to be central to our faith, what should that tell us about our prayers? Our church? Our mission?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.