

“So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.” 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 NLT

## lectio // 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The apostle Paul - writer, teacher, pastor, early church leader, asks a great question. “Where does that leave...” the smarties? Of course, my assumption is that our modern smarties believe they are smarter than ancient smarties because knowledge has increased a thousand fold. I’m fairly certain that greater knowledge does not mean greater intelligence. Oh, and I acknowledge, I am no where near any of these groups of smarties. Their hope, their beliefs are all in themselves. Paul, who is smart, calls them on his very question. And delivers the hard news, the world cannot find God through human wisdom! God uses foolishness? What kind of foolishness? Like the foolishness of love, mercy, forgiveness and the fact that God became man! The fact that God sacrificed his own to make it right for every human being to be cleared of their sin, their selfishness. There has not been one philosopher, one brilliant scientist, one religious or world leader that was perfect and yet gave their life for the payment of all humanity’s wrongs. And none of them came back alive, after death, to prove it! This is the truth that is so hard for the smarties. It isn’t that it’s too good to be true, it’s that it requires the bending of the knee, and bending of the heart to admit **THEY ARE WRONG**. That is the heart of humans, we are too arrogant to submit.

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I may not be in the smarties group, but I know a couple of things: 1) I know my heart and it is filled with sin and arrogance, 2) I regularly bend my knee and my heart before you and ask forgiveness and receive your grace. So I may not be super smart, but I’m smart enough to recognize truth.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root