

“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 NLT

lectio // 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Can science ever lie? If you say, well no, because science isn't about human qualities of morality or right and wrong. Then, let me ask it a different way. Can scientists ever lie? You know that we've made "science" the end all, be all of truth. "It's science," we say as though it can have no flaws. And, as we've seen this word tirelessly used in a pandemic year, it has divided us. Not because it may or may not be true, but because it's been wielded by humans, some scientists some not, and used as a political, even sociological weapon to crush opponents of oppositional opinions. The author, Paul, writes these letters to a very hip, cool, metropolitan, sophisticated group of readers. They are smart and have a fairly global perspective because of the massive amount of seafaring trade from distant countries. This is why Paul calls the cross "foolishness." It makes no sense to the learned people of Jewish and Greek descent. "It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense." Jews have God laws, and believe if they keep them, it will save them. Greeks have wisdom, science if you will, and it will save them (or convince them they have no need of salvation). Paul points out, both are wrong! Neither know how to deal with perfection or the afterlife. Both see sacrificial love as weakness.

oratio

Dad,

You had me at wisdom! I know I'm not smart enough or good enough to figure out how to fix people, fix the planet or even fix myself. Even typing that sounds so pretentiously arrogant. The cross is NOT foolishness to me, it is salvation to all: people, planet and me. The issue for me is, "can I walk, long enough in that wisdom from above to affect others, my planet and my own life.?" Can I, not just believe, but endure or persist to make it all the way to the end? That is my goal and I need help to pull it off.

contemplatio

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