

Palm Springs Church of Christ
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Monday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
May 22, 2022



Palm Springs Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

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The Cross and Human Wisdom

For the sake of argument, let’s just say for a moment that you did not know anything about the Gospel of Jesus or His story. There is no Scripture to tell us anything about it. You have no concept of a crucified and risen Savior.

If there is a God who wants to show grace to humanity, save people from evil, and give them true purpose, how would he do it? What ideas would you bring to the table to make this a palatable action on His part? How do you think it ought to have been done? Again, you don’t know anything about the story of Jesus. How would God do it? How should God do it? What is the best way to get this done?

What, in your own wisdom and understanding, would work best to deal with evil? Whatever you just came up with is an idea that was derived purely by human wisdom. Would anyone have actually come up with the idea of taking a Jewish peasant from Galilee, making outrageous claims of being divine, constantly offending people, and then having him crucified as a criminal in the most shameful, humiliating way and then raising him from the dead? Neither Jews nor Gentiles of the first century would have done so either.

Compare the world’s wisdom with what the Gospel teaches: “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe” (1 Cor 1:21).

There is no way to arrive at knowing God through human wisdom. Why, then, would God have actually done it the way He did it? Why do it in a way that human wisdom would not have created or fabricated? Why do it in a way that offends the most basic sense of human wisdom? Because...**“God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God”** (1 Cor 1:28-29).

God chose what is low and despised in the world to carry out the plan. By human wisdom, no one would have liked this. Coming up with a way to come to God by human wisdom would also lend itself to boasting. The cross gives us nothing to boast about from human wisdom.

Yet the shame and humiliation of the cross is why we need to pay attention here. The story of the cross of Jesus is not something human wisdom from any age would have dreamed up and tried to pass off as God’s plan. Would you have done it that way? Neither would they have done so. By all human standards, it is foolish. How could anyone possibly believe or accept it? Yet, here it is.

Crucifixion was so heinous, so terrible, that it was impolite even to discuss it (Cicero). There was no way to describe it in humane terms. Crucifixion was reserved for criminals and slaves, for the worst of the worst and lowest of the low. In what world would Gentiles accept a crucified Jewish Messiah from Palestine to be their Savior? In what world would the Jews have accepted a cursed Messiah as their Savior and Lord? By all accounts, this cannot work. An uneducated Jewish peasant from Nazareth of Galilee going to a cross as a criminal becomes the Savior of the world? Come on. Surely we can come up with something better than that!

This is Paul’s point. No community in their own wisdom would have invented this story to pass off as true. To the Gentiles, this was utter foolishness. To the Jews, it was a stumbling block, a terrible offense and curse. Yet, in the first century within a short time of the events, both Jews and Gentiles were indeed accepting it, converting, and spreading the news about it. How in the world could this have happened? What is the best explanation for this?

Calling it a mere human invention does not explain it. How could it? This, again, would have taken an invention from communities that saw crucifixion as only belonging to the cursed, the criminals, the lowest of society and then turning such a person into the Savior of the world. On its face, it makes no sense. Human wisdom always shuns this story, even as it does today.

The best explanation is that this is what actually happened and there was more to the story than a crucified Jewish man who was humiliated as a criminal. Much, much more.

Once we get this, perhaps we can begin to understand Paul’s other point in 1 Corinthians 1:24: **“But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”**

For you, is the cross folly, a stumbling block, or the power of God? Your answer to this question will guide the rest of your life.

Doy Moyer, vestaviachurchofchrist.com

We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
To give glory to God
To be unified in reaching others
To be living witnesses for Christ

Welcome to the
Palm Springs Church of Christ



You are always welcome at our worship services. May God bless you today and strengthen you inwardly to meet the challenges of the week ahead.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. (Ephesians 6:18)”

Pray for our Church family:

Please keep Roy and family in your prayers during this difficult time following Lucy’s passing. We ask that you pray for the improved health of: Mae Britton, Kerry Britton, Lynette Brink, Sue Collins, Phyllis Francis, Wanda Goodenough, Delores Jensen, Betty Johnson, Brenda Jones, John Leonard, Roy McDonald, Jeff Mercer, Jerry Munn, Dail Paramore, and Francis Pati.

Pray for family & friends:

Please pray for Russ and Barbara Galbreath’s daughter-in-law Carla and has been placed on hospice care. Pray for the improved health of: Mary Fields, Joy Gabel Filippone, Keith & Lisa Britton, Delores’ brother Len, Marjorie Counts, Kathy’s husband Kevin, Derek Fields, Dail’s friends Marie and Teddy Kovack who is recovering from cancer surgery and Brenda’s son Uriah.

First responders: Please keep those who are serving their communities in your prayers: Phyllis Francis’ extended family member Alisha K. (EMT). Dail Paramore and Stuart Huggins’ family members: Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (both are MI Patrol Officers). Jerry Munn’s sister, Dr. Janice Massey of N.C. If you have family members or friends you would like to add to this prayer list, please let Kathy know.

Military:

Jeff Mercer’s son-in-law Brandon Deusenberry, Glenn Fields, and Kathy’s family friends T. Burgess and T. Cairo.

Prayer Warriors Corner

God, who created the creatures of the air, thank You for the reminder that it is not my strength that sustains me but Yours. May I lean unto You today as I face whatever comes my way. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

All God’s Creatures: Virginia Ruth; January 2022

Read: Isaiah 40:27-31

News:

Celebration of Lucy McDonalds Life has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 29th following the regular morning assembly. All are invited to attend.

*Individually wrapped **communion supplies*** are available for those who are not comfortable with in-person worship service or while you are out of town.

In Search of the Lord’s Way: Watch excellent Bible-based messages every Sunday, 7:30 a.m., on KCWQ, VHF channel 2 or UHF channel 26. Also Available ANY TIME online with You Tube. Just enter: SearchTVMinistry and pick a sermon. <https://youtu.be/FxMzZ6ZKMdQ>

Scripture reading:
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message of 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; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”* Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

Sermon Title:
“Wise in whose eyes?”

Birthdays:

Yolanda Britton: 5/3
 Kathy Ferrell: 5/4
 Stuart Huggins: 5/14

Wedding Anniversaries:

K & K Ferrell: 5/1
 K & Y Britton: 5/28

WORSHIP ORDER May 22, 2022

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

1025: God of Our Fathers (1-4)

4: To God Be the Glory (1-2)

COMMUNION & OFFERING

77: Glorify Thy Name (1-3)

INTERLUDE/INTERVALO

SCRIPTURE READING & SERMON

911: Bring Christ Your Broken Life (1-4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING PRAYER

Worship service: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

While we will be having in-person worship service on Sunday mornings, we understand that there are still many of our number that are still not comfortable attending. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, and that you are truly missed.

God bless us all and our families and loved ones too.

Sermons on line: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the “sermons” category at the top of the page.

mychurchofchristradio.com

<http://www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com>

Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado