

1 April 2018 - Easter Day. Readings: Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11; John 20:1–18.



INTRO: *Fools for Christ* – **1 Corinthians 4:10**, “We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute.”

I. EVERYONE BEGINS A FOOL.

Psalm 14:1-3, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’... The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.” Cf. **Isaiah 53:6**. “Bah, bah, do, bah, bah!”

John 20:8-9, “Then the other disciple (John), who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.”

Jn. 20:14, “Having said this, she (Mary) turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.” **Seeing = believing.**

The Apostles. Luke 24:10-11, “Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and **they did not believe them** (MSG: the apostles didn’t believe a word of it, **thought they were making it all up**).”

Thomas. John 20:25, “So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, **I will never believe.**’”

Michael W. Smith, *Secret Ambition*, “**Nobody knew His secret ambition Nobody knew His claim to fame He broke the old rules steeped in tradition He tore the holy veil away Questioning those in powerful position Running to those who called His name But nobody knew His secret ambition, Was to give His life away.**”



II. GOD DOESN’T HOLD FOOLISHNESS AGAINST US.

Psalm 14:2, “The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any...who seek God.” Cf. “Seek, and you will find.”

Basic Christianity, John Stott, *The Right Approach*.

We must seek *diligently* and *honestly*. **Jeremiah 29:13**, “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

We must seek *humbly*. **Matthew 11:25**, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.”

We must seek *obediently*. **John 7:17**, “If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.”

“God, if you exist (and I don't know if you do), and if you can hear this prayer (and I don't know if you can), I want to tell you that I am an honest seeker after the truth. Show me if Jesus is your Son and the Saviour of the world. And if you bring conviction to my mind, I will trust him as my Saviour and follow him as my Lord.”



III. FOOLS FOR CHRIST CHANGE.

John 20:28, “My Lord and My God!” **Acts 10:39**, “They put him to **death** by hanging him on a tree.” **Acts 10:40**, “God **raised** him on the third day... made him to **appear**” [1 **Corinthians 15:3-10**, “he **appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he **appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time... Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he **appeared** also to me.”] **1 Corinthians 13:11**, “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, **I gave up childish ways.**”

John Wimber. “I'm a fool for Christ... Whose fool are you?”

CONCLUSION: 1 Cor. 1:20-25, “Where is the wise person?...

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 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 human wisdom, and the weakness of

God is stronger than human strength.” May we be so foolish. Amen

