

**The Word of the Cross
I Corinthians 1:18-31**

To the World, the Word of the Cross Is Foolishness, Scandalous - I Cor 1:18,23

To the Saved, the Word of the Cross Is the Wisdom and Power of God - I Cor 1:18,24

The Word of the Cross Comes with an Unwelcome Judgment - Eph 2:1-3; 4:18

- all self-improvement dies at the cross - Jo 15:5
- only by God's "doing" are we made whole - I Cor 1:30

The Word of the Cross Comes with Divine Revelation - II Cor 4:6

- The Word of the Cross proclaims God as Lover - Jo 3:16
 - ...it is a demonstration of His loving character - Ro 5:8
 - ...to reject the Word of the Cross is to reject being loved into being - I Jo 4:7-8,19
(Beware of any "word" that makes you self-indulgent - it is not the Word of the Cross!)
- The Word of the Cross proclaims God as Liberator - Acts 13:39; II Cor 5:17
 - ...the cross "undoes" and it "does" - Col 1:21-22
 - ...to reject the Word of the Cross is to reject living in our God-given freedom - Ga 5:1
(Beware of any "word" that makes you conscious of what you were, not who you are!)
- The Word of the Cross proclaims God as Life-Giver - Jo 1:4; 10:10
 - ...God brings to us the offer of Himself - Heb 9:26; 10:12
 - ...A corresponding supply of His own Life for every need - II Pet 1:3,4
 - ...to reject the Word of the Cross is to reject the life God intended us to live - I Jo 5:11-12
(Beware of any "word" that quenches the flow of His Life in and through you!)

The Word of the Cross Comes with a Command Invitation - Matt 16:24

- "If anyone wishes..." - calls for a free response to His Love, Liberty, and Life
- "let him deny himself..." - to renounce, disown your "cross-less" self
- "take up his cross daily..." - step into a daily cooperation with His Crucified, Risen life
- "follow Me..." - "follow Me and I will make you _____" - Lk 1:38