

## A Foolish Chain of Events?

*The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. (1 Cor. 1:18, CEB)*

Interestingly enough, Easter falls on April Fool's Day this year. The apostle Paul described the message of the cross as "foolishness." To many people, it seems fool-ish that the Son of God would need to die such an awful death on a cross. Couldn't he have rescued the world some other way – perhaps the way superheroes or warriors do?

But make no mistake. What happened on the cross is exactly what gives people the power to be rescued by God. Jesus came to willingly offer his life in place of ours, to give the fullest demonstration of love that the world has ever seen, and to show that God has power over the worst of the worst, even death.

How important is it, then, that the Christ, who died on the cross, was resurrected into new life? Paul goes on to say that: "*If Christ hasn't been raised, then our preaching is useless and your faith is useless*" (1 Cor. 15:14, CEB). The evidence of the empty tomb is that important! Basically, Paul is saying that we would be wasting our time talking about Jesus if the resurrection had never taken place. We would be just a group of 'nice' people without the power of God working in and through us. Death simply could not hold Jesus in the grave. Jesus is alive!

The Cross. The Empty Tomb. Both are defining symbols of faith in Christ Jesus. Signposts of the spiritual journey we need to take with Jesus during this Holy Week. On the surface, they may seem to be bookends to a foolish chain of events, but they hold the power of salvation for those who choose to believe. Be sure to take time to experience them both this weekend.

Easter Blessings,

*Pastor David Rittgers, A Fool for Christ*