

“The Foolishness of God”

By Tony Melton

When we see or hear the phrase “the foolishness of God,” we might think someone is blaspheming God. But this is a biblical phrase. 1 Corinthians 1:24 says that “the foolishness of God is wiser than men.” The Lord uses this terminology because many so-called wise men and women look at the Bible and its teachings as foolishness.

For example, many “wise people” think that trusting in a carpenter’s Son or a crucified Savior is foolishness. They think that believing in a Savior who lived such a humble, poverty stricken life, and then was nailed to a cross is ridiculous. By reading the Bible, we find that God has chosen many things in the past that might seem ignorant to man, but nevertheless accomplished His purposes. Notice the following:

1. The building of an ark to save the human race from a flood (Genesis 6-9).
2. The offering of blood sacrifices to atone for sin (Genesis 4; Book of Leviticus).
3. The placing of blood over the door post to protect the firstborn children from death (Exodus 11).
4. Looking upon a bronze serpent to heal a snake wound (Numbers 21).
5. Dipping seven times in the river Jordan to be healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5).
6. Marching around the walls of a city (Jericho) to cause the walls to fall (Joshua 6).

These are just a few examples of the many times God has accomplished His purposes by choosing certain means that may seem foolish to men. Even today when we tell people they must believe in Jesus Christ and allow someone to immerse or dip them in water for the forgiveness of their past sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), they often laugh and make light of it. They consider such an idea foolish. However, we must always keep in mind that the “foolishness of God is wiser than men.”