

**TEXT:** 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23–24. “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; <sup>24</sup> But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

**DECLARATION:** We preach the gospel of Christ because it is the dynamic power of God to deliver souls from sin.

**PROPOSITION:** Do you preach Christ? How are you preaching Christ? Do you use gimmicks and tricks to persuade people to believe in Him? Do you go through great lengths to water down the gospel so it’s not so offensive? “All new methods devised by man can only fall far short of this ordained means of converting the sinner” (James E. Adams).

**TRANSITION:** Let me proclaim to you 4 stupendous facets of the nature of the gospel from the text we read.

**OUTLINE:**

1. Preaching Christ’s death is a **stumbling block** to the Jews, “unto the Jews a stumblingblock” (v. 23).
2. Preaching Christ’s death is a **stupidity** to the Gentiles, “unto the Greeks foolishness” (v. 23).
3. Preaching Christ’s death is the **super-power** of God, “Christ the power of God” (v. 24).
  - A. It is the skill of God. No man, no gimmicks, no tricks can do it (John 1:12–13).
  - B. It is the scalpel of God—like that of a skillful surgeon on the operating table.
4. Preaching Christ’s death is the **sagacity** of God, “the wisdom of God” (v. 24).

**CONCLUSION:** The preaching of the gospel is senseless, stupid, devoid of shrewdness and sophistication. That’s what man thinks of it. But to God and to those who would believe it, the gospel of Christ is sanity, sagacity, full of savvy and sophistication! To those who should preach it must surrender to the nature and reality of it—and throw away man’s devises, gimmicks, trickery. Preach the unadulterated gospel of Christ!