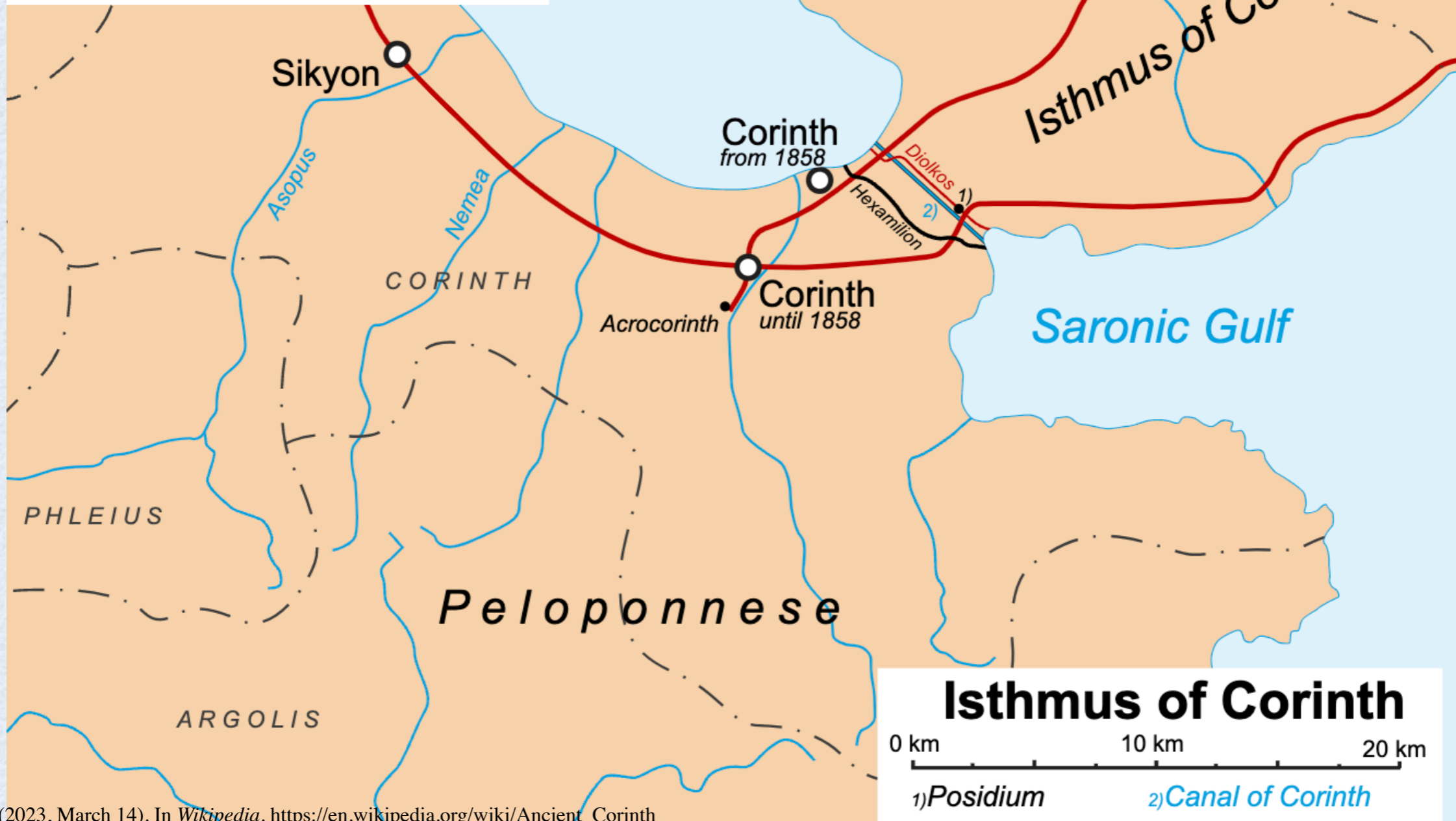


THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:17-31





17 For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 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. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

- "The cross is not and cannot be loved. Yet only the crucified Christ can bring the freedom which changes the world because it is no longer afraid of death. In his time the crucified Christ was regarded as a scandal and as foolishness. Today, too, it is considered old-fashioned to put him in the centre of Christian faith and of theology. Yet only when people are reminded of him, however untimely this may be, can they be set free from the power of the facts of the present time, and from the laws and compulsions of history, and be offered a future which will never grow dark again. Today the church and theology must turn to the crucified Christ in order to show the world the freedom he offers." Jürgen Moltmann- The Crucified God

THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:17-31

- **Stumbling Block and Foolishness**

1 Cor 1: 22-23 “22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,”

22 If someone guilty of a capital offence is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole, 23 you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance. Deut 21:22-23

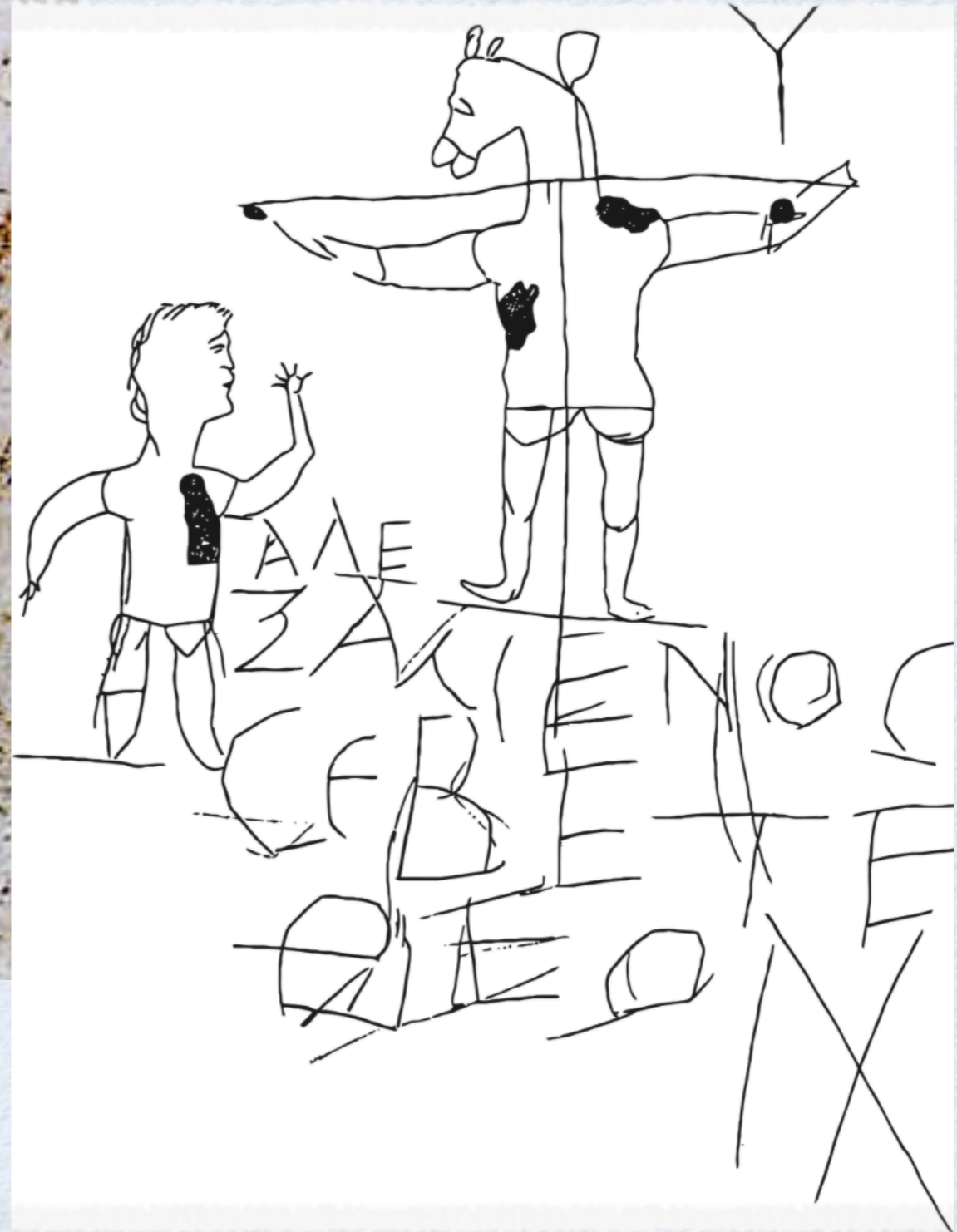
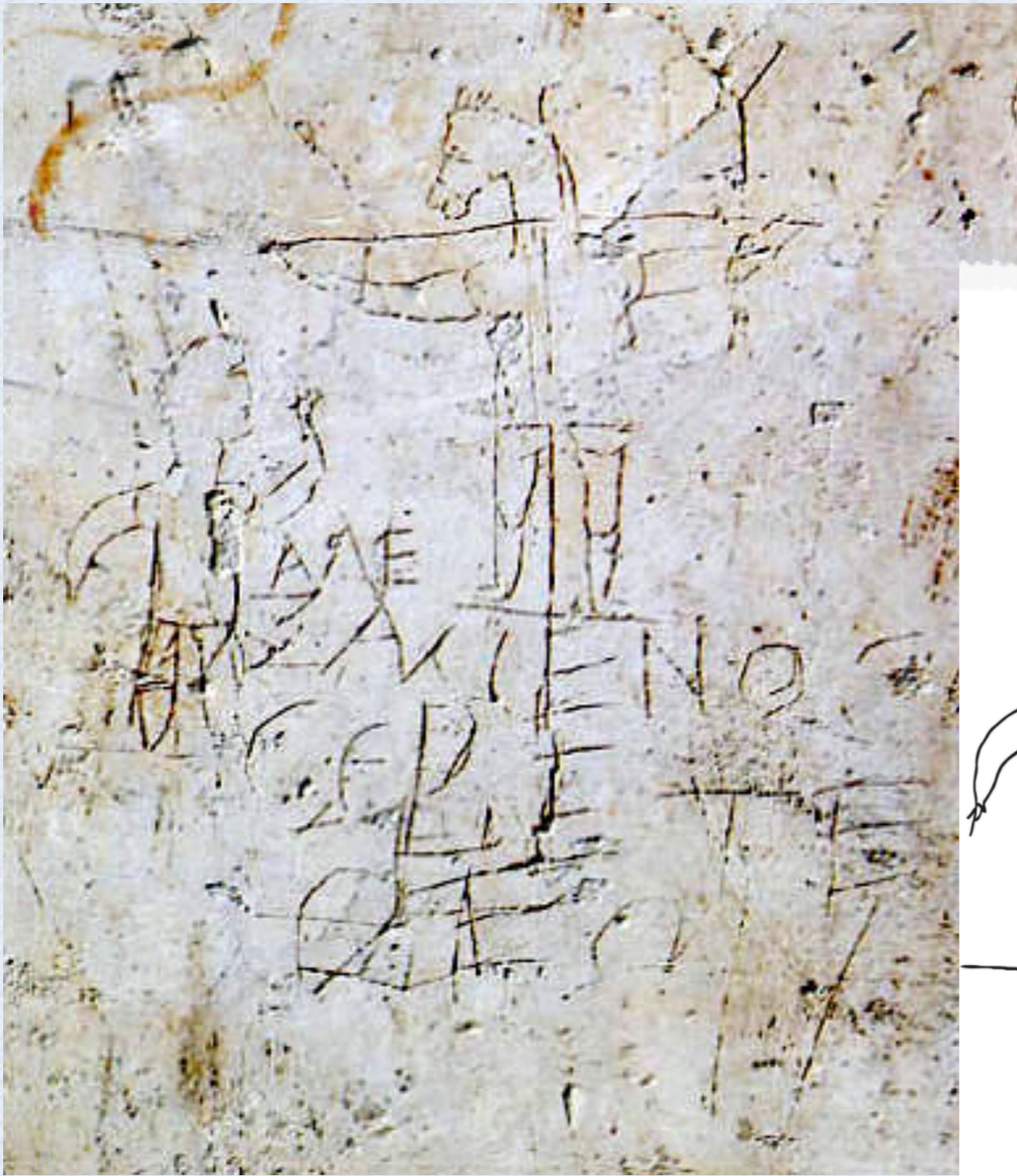
- **Stumbling Block and Foolishness**

1 Cor 1: 22-23 “22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,”

- **BUT...**

“24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

“18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”



**Alexamenos
worshipping his God**

- **DISCUSSION**

What is something that means our society can't really see Jesus as God, the Saviour?

What do people see when they look at the cross?

Does the apparent weakness of the cross mean people don't think Jesus can save or is relevant?

How is the cross God's wisdom?

WE PREACH CHRIST
CRUCIFIED

1 Corinthians 1:23

- “God’s Good News in Jesus Christ; it is Good News of the reign he proclaimed and embodies; of God’s mission of love to restore the world to wholeness through the Cross of Christ and him alone; of his victory over the demonic powers of destruction and death; of his lordship over the entire universe; it is good news of a new creation, a new humanity, a new birth through him by his life-giving Spirit; of the gifts of the messianic reign contained in Jesus and mediated through him by the Spirit; of the charismatic community empowered to embody his reign of shalom here and now before the whole creation and make his Good News seen and known. It is Good News of liberation, of restoration, of wholeness, and of salvation that is personal, social, global and cosmic.” - Quoted in Tim Chester Crown of Thorns

- **DISCUSSION**

What difference does it make to us if we are to share Christ Crucified with people?

What difference does it make to what we tell ourselves?

About God, about ourselves, about others.

GOD'S WISDOM AND POWER- JESUS

1 Corinthians 1:24&30

- Jesus

“30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

- **Wiser than human wisdom**

- **DISCUSSION**

What 2 things would you like to remember from this morning?



Jesus asked us to remember.



He did this so we can live in relationship with God in his kingdom.

- As we take Communion - Remember
 - Are we going to live daily in that relationship with God that Jesus has made possible?
 - Are we going to live in the kingdom that is governed by love, by power that is coming under and serving, by wisdom that doesn't make earthly sense?
 - Are we going to live in the good news that is for the lowly, the weak and the dispossessed, that is for ALL?

