

## 77. *The Giant Toothpick*

At the close of the Second World War Alexander Platz in central Berlin, was a place of ruin and death. The Communists rebuilt it as a showcase to the world of impressive socialist architecture. Amongst the Stalinist buildings, was a soaring television tower, nicknamed “The Toothpick.”

The regime persecuted Christians and closed Christian institutions like Christian schools. Atheism was taught in all schools and universities, and rationalism with its two children, science and socialism were seen as being the new church. Old pre war churches were often torn down. *The Toothpick* is one of the largest, and highest, structures in Europe with a spire top of 365 meters. It could be seen all over Berlin, and easily showed its head over the awful Berlin wall that divided the city. People, who tried to cross the wall from east into west, were shot in the Cold War era.

The glory of the atheist world, the tower, contained an infuriating feature that you can still see today when you visit Berlin. The tower contains a magnificent steel dome covered in stainless steel tiles, which reflect the surrounds. The oppressive regime was incensed with the structure because the face of the sphere to the west reflects a giant cross, which can't be missed. The authorities used all manner of chemicals and reconstruction tricks to remove the source of the crucifix. But they failed. This unintended secular church spire impacted both the capitalist west and the Communist east. God has the last say in history; the cross is at the centre of life. All dictators and oppressors ultimately fail in suppressing this symbol and its life-changing story. Today Christian schools and churches operate freely in all of Germany

Over a million tourists take the trip up the heights to the viewing gallery, shops and revolving restaurant All residents of Berlin and tourists, on a sunny day are reminded of the crucifix and the high price of our salvation.

*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.*

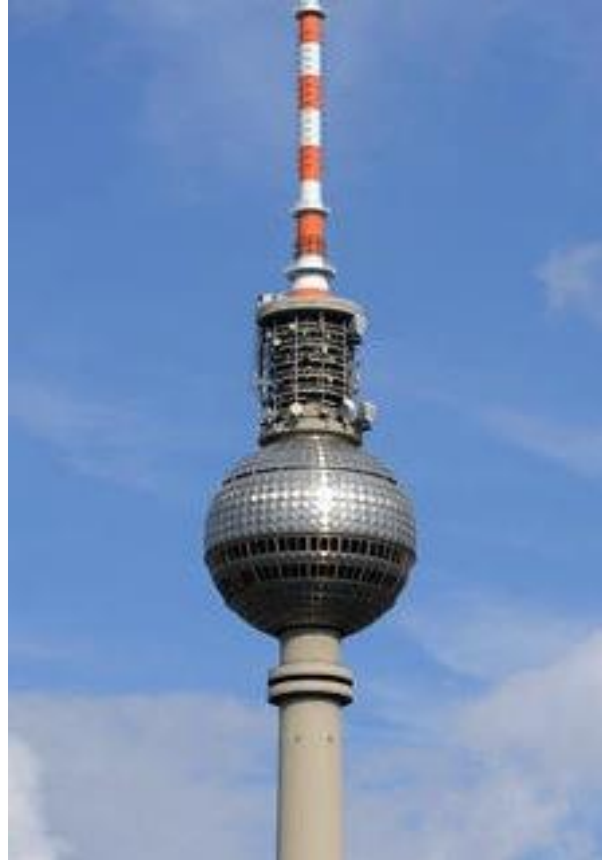
**1 Corinthians 1:18**

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**Colossians 2:15**

*He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.*

**1 Peter 2:24**



<http://www.tv-turm.de/en/index.php>

Official site of the tower with a 360-degree view that can be accessed.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewKtSKbWZUI>

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/1849169>

Louis Giglio at the climax of his DVD *Indescribable* screens a NASA photo of the centre of a distant spiral galaxy where a cross is seen, and he argues passionately that the cross is at the centre of the cosmos.