

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"God's Available Wisdom"
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Study-3

Job asks the question: Job 28:12 "But where can wisdom be found? 28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"

WISDOM – is used **8 times** in the passage.

James 3 Describes the **characteristics of God's wisdom**, Paul is describing the **content of God's wisdom**.

Paul's words, **1 Corinthians 1:26 not many wise according to the flesh**,

Thought of Our Passage: "God's Wisdom Is made Available Through The Gospel Message And Proclaimed Through His humble Servants"

- 1. Verses 18-25 Human Wisdom Versus Divine.**
- 2. Verses 26-31 Understanding God's Calling.**

1. Verses 18-25 Human Wisdom Versus Divine.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross
this where Paul left off. The message was about God, not man.
1 Corinthians 1:17

Only 2 groups of people in the world: Those that perish, and those which are saved! (Lost or Saved) Their spiritual position determines their evaluation of the cross.

1. Those That Perish: word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, foolishness- English moron literally "*silly, nonsense*" **perishing, "ruin"**

2. Those Which Are Saved: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Romans 1:16

1 Corinthians 1:19 Paul quotes from **Isaiah 29:14**

Isaiah 37:36-37 Lesson - men make their own plans of salvation that end in death!

WISDOM – is used **8 times** in the passage. **Wisdom** – is that which is the proper application of truth. *"Hands on application of that which is right!"*

1 Corinthians 1:20

Paul asks 4 rhetorical questions:

- (1) Where is the wise man?** Greek Philosophers
- (2) Where is the scribe?** Theologians
- (3) Where is the debater of this age?** Brainy persons that come and go.
- (4) Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** God's wisdom blows them away.

Verses 21-23 Human Wisdom Cannot Save: 1 Corinthians 1:21

through its wisdom did not come to know God,
Closed off from God's wisdom **Romans 1:18-32**

Colossians 2:3-4

Humans do not know how to handle truth.

Preaching Is God's Method To Impart Wisdom And Salvation: God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. This message of the gospel that is looked at as foolish is God's way of saving lost men.

1 Corinthians 1:22 For indeed Jews ask for signs,
Moses had to do signs to convince Israel of God's intentions. All through the ministry of Jesus the Jews were asking for signs to be performed by Him. **Matthew 12:38-39**

and Greeks search for wisdom; (Let me investigate) **Acts 17:32**
Mocked Paul for the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 1:23 but (Paul did not honor their request)
we preach Christ crucified,

to Jews a stumbling block, (Scandal) They did not want a suffering Savior. They wanted a victorious Savior that came to overthrow Rome.

and to Gentiles foolishness,
How can a criminal man that died bring forgiveness?

Verses 24-25 Only Divine Wisdom Can Save: 1 Corinthians 1:24
Those that are being drawn by God see the power and the wisdom in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:25

2. Verses 26-31 Understanding God's Calling:

1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren,

Paul uses the Corinthians as examples of how God calls people by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

God's Calling Is Not Based On Man's Position:

that there were not many wise according to the flesh,

Notice that Paul does not say **any wise**.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11; James 2:1-9 God is no respecter of persons.

Not rich over poor!

wise – the intellect of man, what they have learned.

not many mighty, speaks of *influence, strength, that they were able, political, military*.

Crispus, who had once been the ruler of the synagogue.

He mentions **Erastus**, who was the city treasurer **Romans 16:23** Also, there is mention there of a man named **Gaius** who was evidently a wealthy businessman in Corinth.

not many noble; their *inheritance of men, standings and status in the community*.

1 Corinthians 1:27 but God has chosen

God does this in His own interest, salvation is of God. **Ephesians 1:3-4**

the foolish things of the world This word **foolish** – Greek word *moros, moron's, dull or stupid, blockhead, absurd*:

to shame the wise, "To put to shame"

The weak, the base ("low born")

1 Corinthians 1:28

We need to learn that our usefulness is not derived from our position or our abilities, but rather from His presence in our lives.

"things that are not,

weak things and foolish, obscure people.

Luke 16:15

This word **nullify** – “render entirely useless, destroy, do away, put away (down), vanish away, make void”

Psalm 8:2

1 Corinthians 1:29 “In Salvation It is the grace of God, Or God Gets No Glory!”

(N.L.T.) Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

2 Corinthians 4:7

1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus,
It is God that has drawn us to Himself for salvation.

Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, What is that wisdom? and **righteousness** and **sanctification**, and **redemption**,

- 1. and righteousness** (Before God) **Penalty Of Sin** That speaks of our proper standing before God. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- 2. and sanctification**, (Before Man) **Being Saved From The Power Of Sin John 17:19**
- 3. and redemption, (Glorification) Being Saved From The Presence Of Sin** *speaks of being purchased or to buy back!*

1 Corinthians 1:31 Jeremiah 9:24

Application:

- 1.** God’s Wisdom Is So Wonderful And So Difficult To Understand That Man Mistakes It For Foolishness.
- 2.** The Wise Of This World Cannot Understand How God Changes Sinners Into Saints, And The Mighty Of This World Are Helpless To Duplicate The Miracle.
- 3.** We Need To Learn That Our Usefulness Is Not Derived From Our Position Or Our Abilities, But Rather From His Presence In Our Lives.