

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

## The Foolishness of God

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Todd Chapman - February 7, 2021

The cross appears as utter foolishness to most. Why?

- 1) Because God put together a "foolish" plan.**
  
- 2) Because God chose "foolish" people to whom to reveal His wisdom.**

## Notes:

## ***Life Group Discussion Questions***

### **Based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear the words "*fool*" or "*foolish*"?
2. In your mind, what makes someone wise?
3. What are some things that people in this world think are wise but God thinks are actually foolish?

#### **Digging into the Text**

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and respond:
  - Summarize Paul's main idea in this section of text.
  - According to v. 18, how is the cross both foolishness and the power of God?
  - Based on vv. 19-21, why do you think it pleases God to bring about salvation through a message that seems utterly foolish to those who are wise in the world's eyes?
  - Based on vv. 22-25, what is the centerpiece of God's wisdom? How is it different from what Jews and Greeks desire? How does it reveal God's ultimate wisdom and power?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and respond:
  - What is Paul's major point in these verses?
  - How does God gain glory through choosing to save and use the "*foolish*" and "*weak*" and "*low*" people?
  - Based on vv. 29-31, who is ultimately responsible for our salvation?
  - Describe how this fact necessarily precedes being able to only "*boast in the Lord*"?

#### **Applying It to My Life**

6. Hearing from Paul that God chooses the weak and powerless, how does that impact our view of ourselves, of the Church, and of sharing the Good News with others?
7. What is a step we can take this week to help us make much of Christ and promote Him in what we say and do?