

The Foolishness and Weakness of God in the Cross of Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 1:14-31

Exposition

1:14-17 Paul’s purpose: to preach the full, undiluted, powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Paul’s purpose was not to baptize people.
- Paul’s purpose was not to tickle people’s ears (tell people what they want to hear).
- Paul’s purpose was not to create a following or clique after his own name.
- Paul’s purpose was not to build a bridge of solidarity with Corinthian culture.
- Paul’s purpose was to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with such clarity, conviction, and biblical fidelity that “the cross of Christ” would not “be emptied of its power!”

1:18-24 Those who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ are spiritually blind although full of earthly wisdom.

Those who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ have been elected (or chosen) by God to be filled with a heavenly awakening to the reality of God’s power and wisdom through faith.

| <i>Presentation of the Gospel</i> | Spiritually blind response | Spiritually awakened response |
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| <i>1:18—The Word of the Cross</i> | <u>Folly</u> to those who are perishing | The power of God to those who are being saved. |
| <i>1:23-24—The Preaching of Christ Crucified</i> | <u>Stumbling block</u> to Jews; <u>Folly</u> to Gentiles | The power and wisdom of God to those who are called |

1:25 Every aspect of God’s character and being is wiser and stronger than man.

1:26-31 The doctrine of God’s election in salvation elevates the wisdom and power of God over all earthly and humanly wisdom and power.

The doctrine of election is important, not for tiring and unhelpful arguments between believers, but for highly exalting the glory of God’s wisdom and power through our salvation.

Christians who accurately understand the doctrine of election will humbly “boast in the Lord” rather than boasting in the free will of man.

- Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God’s wisdom.
- Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God’s righteousness.
- Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God’s sanctification.
- Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God’s redemption.

Observations

- 1:14-17** **The greatest demonstration of God’s infinite wisdom and power is displayed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- 1:18-25** **When the Gospel of Jesus Christ is properly preached and shared, the glory of God’s wisdom and power is displayed.**
- 1:26-31** **Only those whom God has chosen to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ will believe in the Gospel.**

BIG IDEA: *The simplest facet of the Gospel showcases the divine supremacy of God’s wisdom and power over the greatest wisdom and strength that man can muster.*

Application (as we prepare to worship at the Lord’s Table)

- ❖ **Come prayerfully to Communion.**
 - Come to God’s table with a heart of **worship**.
Praise Him for His sovereign wisdom and power in electing you to salvation.
 - Come to God’s table with a heart of **humility**.
Apart from God’s grace, we do not belong here, but in Christ we always belong here!
 - Come to God’s table with a heart of **honesty**.
Confess your sins, agree with God about your need for His forgiveness, and rejoice in your eternal rest in Christ’s righteousness.
- ❖ **Come peacefully to Communion.**
Rejoice in your shared faith with your brothers and sisters in Christ rather than focusing on your differences of opinion or background.
- ❖ **Come personally to Communion.**
Block out and reject the temptation to robotically remember the death of Christ on your behalf by personalizing the death of Jesus Christ—He died for you!