

aired on KALS August 19, 2003

I Corinthians 1:18-31

18. “For the word 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, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.’

20. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater 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 come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

23. but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

24, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26. For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27. but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to

shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
28. and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,
29. so that no man may boast before God.
30. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
31. so that, just as it is written, ‘LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.’”

This is a most exciting and comforting Scripture to me personally. God can use anyone, even you or me, to fulfill His purposes here on earth! No matter how humble our status or situation, God can use any one of us for His glory. As a matter of fact, this Scripture passage indicates the more lowly a person is when Christ starts working through him the more God’s power and greatness can be shown. Verses 26 and 27 read, “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.”

On the other hand, the so-called wisdom of the wise guys, and their cleverness--God will destroy or set aside. Oh, I glory in this--that the proud with their cutting tongues, with their witty comebacks will be silenced. The silver-

tongued orator and conniving humanist, the self-serving with their “king of the hill” mentality will all be undone and humiliated. The word of the cross, and the word of the cross alone, will prevail!

And what is that word of the cross? That only through dying to self, can one truly live. We must die to self and selfishness, taking up our cross daily to live for Christ and the people around us. We must become living sacrifices, servants and slaves of God by choice, volunteering freely in this day of His power.

To the religious, those engaged in church-ianity, the word of the cross is a stumbling block. To the worldly minded, the word of the cross is outright nonsense-- foolishness. The self-righteous of the religious forks, and the survival of the fittest of the humanist will become their own downfall at the foot of the cross of Christ.

And to drive the point home even further, God used the medium of preaching to reveal the cross to His creation. Verse 21 reads, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” And the message is preached most often by the lowest casts of any society.

Truly, “just as it is written, ‘LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.’” (I Corinthians 1:31) To God be the glory.