

# **1 Corinthians Part One**

## **Lesson #5, Chapter 1:22-31**

Please read chapter 1 again before beginning this lesson. Make sure you spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to teach you from His Word.

1. Our lesson begins in the middle of a paragraph, so let's review a bit to refresh our minds. What do we learn about the gospel message from verses 18-21?
  - a. What contrasts are made about wisdom and foolishness?
  
2. What do we learn about the Jews and Greeks from verse 22?
  
3. How is that related in thought to what Paul has already written in verses 18-21?
  
4. While the Jews and Greeks are looking for some other means to know God, what is Paul doing according to verse 23? How do the Jews and Greeks respond to that message?
  
5. Why is Christ a stumbling block to the Jews? See Deut. 21:23; Acts 13:38-41, 45; Rom. 9:30-33.

6. Why do the Gentiles consider the gospel message foolishness? See Acts 17:17-18; 26:22-24; 1 Cor. 2:14.
  
7. How do those who are called respond to the message of Christ according to verse 24?
  - a. See Acts 2:37-41; 13:48; 1 Thess. 1:6-7 for some examples.
  
8. What do you learn about God's foolishness and weakness in verse 25? Is God's plan *really* foolishness and weakness?
  
9. What is God's purpose in providing a way of salvation that seems foolish or weak in the eyes of the world? See 1 Cor. 1:18-19, 29; Eph. 2:8-9.
  
10. Verse 26 begins with the phrase, *For consider your calling*. What does Paul mean when he uses the term *calling* in verse 26 or *called* in verse 24? See Rom. 8:28; Eph. 4:1-6; 2 Tim. 1:9.
  
11. What are we to consider about our calling according to verses 26-28?

12. How is it that God's calling of the foolish and the weak could shame the wise and mighty of the world? See also 1 Cor. 2:3-5; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; 4:7; 12:7-10.
  
13. What a motley bunch we are! By the world's standards we aren't wise or mighty or noble; we are even considered foolish, weak, base, and some are even despised, and yet, God chose you and me to display His grace, power, and mercy. How have you seen the Lord display His glory through your weakness, foolishness, and sinful past?
  
14. What is God's purpose in calling *the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are*? See verse 29.
  
15. Talk about putting us in our place! Even when we might be tempted to think we're really *something*, what do verses 26-29 remind us?
  - a. How is that good for us to know and meditate upon? See Ps. 138:6; Is. 57:15; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
  
  - b. What are some practical ways you can remind yourself not to boast or grow proud about yourself or being a Christian?

16. Though we come from humble roots, we have also been given a gift that far outshines any applause or commendation from the world. What is true of every believer according to the first part of verse 30?
- a. Who did this for us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. See Eph. 1:3-12 for one example of what has been done for us. Briefly list what you discover.
17. What does it mean to be *in* Christ Jesus? First, consider what it's like if you are *in* anything. What kinds of things are true about you if you're *in* a pool or *in* a club or *in* trouble?
- a. So, if you're *in* Christ what is true about you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Now look up the following verses to learn more about what it means to be *in* Christ Jesus. Briefly describe what you learn. See Jn. 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 1:2, 4, 30, 2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Tim. 1:1.
18. What did Christ become for us according to verse 30?

19. The emphasis here in verse 30 is that God showed His wisdom through the righteousness, sanctification and redemption we have in Christ. In other words, those three attributes showcase God's wisdom revealed in Christ. Explain the righteousness we have in Christ. See 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9.
- a. Now explain the sanctification we have in Christ. See Rom. 6:19; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 2:10.
- b. Finally, explain the redemption we experience in and through Christ. See Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
20. Why is the admonition of verse 31 particularly appropriate after learning the truths of verse 30?
21. Your salvation, growth, and future are all maintained and initiated by God. How should that affect your response to times of fear, guilt, temptation, or sin?
22. Verse 31 brings us back to the Corinthians. Review chapter 1 then answer: What were the Corinthians tempted to boast about concerning their new life in Christ?

23. We are very much like the Corinthians and can unwittingly begin to think we have something to add to our salvation and growth in Christ. What is the reminder from this chapter?
24. Why is that an important truth for every believer to review often?

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“As we draw this section to a close (1:10-2:5), let us learn the folly of internal division; the futility of human wisdom in its inability to save a soul; the power of the cross to accomplish salvation; the pre-eminence of Christ as God's power and wisdom; the glory of divine sovereignty in His choice of us; and finally that our message and preaching can be in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” ~Jack Hunter<sup>1</sup>

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“The sinning was ours, the disobedience was ours, the curse, the wrath, the judgment—all were our desert [what we deserved]. The holiness is His, the perfect obedience unto death is His. He became a curse for us, He drained the cup of wrath, He bore the judgment. Thus He has become in very truth our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and to Him belongs all the glory now and through eternal ages.” ~Harry A. Ironside<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches*, John Ritchie, Ltd.: Kilmarnock, Scotland, 1986. Pg. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Harry A. Ironside, *I Corinthians*, Loizeaux Brothers: New Jersey, 1938 first printing, 1973 eleventh printing. Pg. 77.