

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Lesson 3

This section of 1 Corinthians has been aptly titled "Down Peacock's Feathers". Paul's message is that there is no room for pride in the household of God. *He who glories, let him glory in the LORD* (verse 31). In this section, Paul reveals the absurdity of man relying on his own strengths rather than the wisdom and might of the Lord. May his message be driven deeply into your heart as you rejoice in the fact that it is not about you, but it is **all about Jesus**.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 18-25

Verses 26-31

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 1.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, Paul* and *wisdom/wise*

New to this lesson: *Foolishness/foolish, power*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Paul*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Make a list of what the text reveals about *wisdom* and *foolishness*. In completing the chart, use the same words used in the text. Do not try to interpret or paraphrase what has been written. We have supplied the first two answers to help you get started.

Wisdom	Foolishness
1. I (God) will destroy the wisdom of the wise (19)	1. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. (18)

- a. Now, using your own words, summarize the main points.

4. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems**, and **Commands**.

DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

1. As you study this lesson, keep in mind the continual contrast Paul is making between Godly *wisdom* and human or worldly *wisdom*. According to 1 Corinthians 1:18, what message did Paul feel compelled to preach?
 - a. Define this message from Romans 1:16.
2. Observe the two classes of people referred to in 1 Corinthians 1:18. What is the difference between them?
 - a. Why do you think the *preaching of the cross* is *foolishness* to the *perishing*?
3. 1 Corinthians 1:19 is a quotation from Isaiah 29:14. This Isaiah verse points to the folly of Judah's reliance on man's wisdom for salvation from their enemies in utter disregard of God's promise and power. What did God say He would do concerning this?

a. Why? 1 Corinthians 1:20,21

4. *It pleased God...to save those who believe* (verse 21b). What does this verse say God used to *save those who believe*?

a. Explain, as you would to someone who believes that all paths lead to God, what you must believe in order to be *saved*.

5. What are some examples of the world's *wisdom*?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

1. Record (using 1 Corinthians 1:22-24) the response of the following to the preaching of *Christ crucified*:

		Result
Jews:	<i>request</i> _____	_____
Greeks:	<i>seek after</i> _____	_____
Jews & Greeks	<i>who are</i> _____	_____

2. God is wise. Man is not. Using the following verses, describe the *wisdom of God*: Job 12:13; Proverbs 3:19; Jeremiah 10:12; Romans 16:27

3. *So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and the wonderful wisdom of God. This "foolish" plan of God is far wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is far stronger than the greatest of human strength.* 1 Cor. 1:23-25 NLT *The weakness of God is Christ crucified through weakness. It is more powerful than men because men are saved by it. What does Christ crucified mean to you?*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

- Romans 1:16

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

1. There is a plan and purpose behind everything God does. Observe this by filling in the following diagram from 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

	Things God Has Not Chosen	God's Purpose In This
v. 26		
	Things God Has Chosen	
v. 27		
v. 28		
	God's Ultimate Purpose	
v. 29		

2. *Chosen* and *called* are two important words in 1 Corinthians 1:26-28. Notice God's choosing and calling are not according to wisdom, intelligence, talent, wealth, position or beauty – those are all human standards. God chooses because He wants to display His love, power, and character to the world through believers. How would walking in this kind of thinking help to resolve the problem of disunity in the church?
3. The world often sees those who have responded to God's calling as *not wise, not mighty, not noble*. How have you learned this to be untrue about Christians since you have become one?
4. Does *glorifying* and *boasting* in the Lord mean we are not to respect or esteem those in leadership positions in the church? What is our attitude:
 - a. to be? (1 Thessalonians 5:12,13)
 - b. not to be? (1 Corinthians 3:3,4)
5. How has God used the *foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and the things that are mighty*?
6. Share one way that 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 encourages you.

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:30,31

1. We have seen that man's wisdom is helpless to do anything about the sinfulness - the crime, violence, drugs, immorality - rampant in our nation today. Trying to meet the need with human intellect has failed. Mortal men do not have the answer. The rise of psychics and astrologers is evidence of the people's recognition of their need to reach beyond themselves for guidance. Why is seeking wisdom from a source other than God a dangerous thing to do?

a. Look at the trouble Eve got into for doing this. From Genesis 3:4-6, what is satan's tactic in tempting Eve in this area of wisdom?

2. *God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the One who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and He gave Himself to purchase our freedom* (1 Corinthians 1:30 NLT). Using this paraphrase, list what God has done for the believer.

a. Why does this wonderful work of God in Christ leave no room for boasting (glorying) either in ourselves or others?

3. 1 Corinthians 1:31 is a quote from Jeremiah 9:24. Read Jeremiah 9:23,24 and complete the chart below:

Not To Boast In	To Glory or Boast In

a. In what things does God *delight*? Jeremiah 9:24

1.) What are some of the things people delight in today?

4. *Glory in the Lord* by reading Romans 11:33-36. Record some of the phrases that impact you.

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. Define the *preaching of the cross*.

2. What are some of the common reasons people give for rejecting the *cross of Christ*?

3. In what ways did the gospel seem foolish to you before you became a believer?

4. Why do you think people demand signs or proof from God?
 - a. In what ways do believers still get caught up in that kind of thinking?

5. In what ways has this lesson effected the way you think?

*Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!
-1 Chronicles 16:10*

Lesson 3 – Scripture References

DAY TWO

- 1a. **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
3. **Isaiah 29:14** Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

DAY THREE

2. **Job 12:13** "With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding."
Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens;
Jeremiah 10:12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.
Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

DAY FOUR

- 4a. **1 Thessalonians 5:12,13** And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
- b. **1 Corinthians 3:3-4** for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

DAY FIVE

- 1a. **Genesis 3:4-6** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
3. **Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.
4. **Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" ⁵"Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

DAY SIX

- 1 **Chronicles 16:10** Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!