

## To God Alone be the Glory

### 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (ESV)

<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."

#### ❖ Recap

- On Corinth
- Writer
- Reasons for writing
- Who We Are In Christ
- Unity
- The Foolishness of the Cross and Preaching

#### ❖ Introduction

- 2 Sentences...that is all

### 26 For consider your calling brothers

#### ❖ Consider

- Literally...to look into.
- **Brothers....**
- **Why does He want us to look into these things?**
  - I meditated on this
- **Do you all remember the first parts of this Chapter...**
  - **Why does He go into: The foolishness of this world**
    - After talking about unity
    - And the Word of the cross
    - The preaching of it being important...
    - And now He tells them to look into their calling from God, and who they once were....
- **The division and conflict that were a result of sin was what he was trying to eradicate.**
  - **Pride** was the root of the problem...
  - **Remember their Argument over which servant of the Lord they were linked to:**
    - Paul, Apollos, Peter, Christ
    - Arguing about this...and having all sorts of conflict rising up....
  - **Mainly over baptism....**
    - Who baptized them...
    - Kinda like arguing over your denomination:
      - ◆ I am Baptist, I am Southern Baptist, I am General Baptist, I am Methodist, I am Presbyterian, etc.
      - ◆ We have other arguments....**with little value**...especially not worth the trouble the cause.
  - **Look at what He says to them about their divisions and its root...**
    - He says these things **for a reason**...

- they are not just **proverbial sayings** patched throughout the book here....
- they were dealing with this **problem**.
- **He tells them:**
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 1:29—"so that no human being might boast in the presence of God . . . "
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 1:31—"Therefore, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'"
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 3:7—"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 3:21—"So let no one boast of men."
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 4:6 . . . that none of you may be puffed up (arrogant) in favor of one against another."
  - ◆ 4.7 "If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?"
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 4:18—"Some are arrogant as though I were not coming to you."
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 5:2—"And you are arrogant!"
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 8:1—"Knowledge puffs up, love builds up."
  - ◆ 1 Corinthians 13:4—"Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude."

- **THEY HAD A BOASTING PROBLEM**

- **We need to focus on One thing:**

- **The Cross of Christ – The Gospel is...**

- And what that brings to everyone of us.
- Be united around the Gospel!

- **APPLICATION HERE:**

- If we consider this as Paul does...
- Where is our room to criticize others...?
- Or to say...I would do this, or I would do that? Or you should do this or that?
- **The only thing important in the Church is the Gospel of Jesus Christ....**

- ◆ **And if anything, thought or person interferes with the unity of the church that stands in accordance to God's word....it is a prideful and arrogant and divisive thing....**

- ◆ That is what He is saying here...

- **Is there room for testing false teachings...**

- You bet there better be!...but that was not the problem...and causing division over a false doctrine is a great thing.
- ◆ **We want to divide ourselves as Christians from teachings that contradict God's word.**

<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.....what is foolish, low and despised, things that are not...

- ❖ **Who we Were (This is not very flattering)...thanks a lot Paul...really help our self esteem**

- Consider... Not many of you were....according to worldly standards
- Not Wise – or skilled
- Not Powerful – strong and mighty
- Not of Noble birth – not someone special...of a noble race
- Foolish – not wise
- Weak – not powerful...
- Low and despised – to be considered nothing... a nobody
- Things that are not....someone that would go unnoticed by the world.
- **You Notice:**

- He kinda reiterates the same thing from vs. 26 in verse 27 and 28, just puts it in a different way...

<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,

#### ❖ Who God Chose

- **Us!**
- **He continues to describe what we were like (already looked at part of this verse)**
  - And in being like this, He is saying He **still chose us**
  - **Restated elsewhere in the Bible**
    - Rom 5:8 “ while we were yet sinners Christ died for us..
    - Romans 5:10 <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,
  - God is saying....Even in your terrible state...I loved you...In your worst condition I want you enough to give my life for you...
- **Chose – literally to choose....to select for oneself**
  - Any room for our own choosing?...No
  - **People get so mad and confused about this...**
    - Mad because they are told it is nothing about them that gets them to heaven
    - Confused cause it doesn't make sense...
  - **But, it is in the Bible...clearly!**
    - **Our choice is real...do not get me wrong...we must, as the Bible says....**
      - ◆ Come to Him...
      - ◆ Believe on Him...
      - ◆ Trust in Him...
      - ◆ Receive Him....
    - **But...in our Receiving of the Lord Jesus Christ....**
      - ◆ We will see his calling us first...
      - ◆ We will see his choice of us first...
    - **The Bible says we were chosen before the foundation of the world...**
      - ◆ My logic, and my figuring tell me..... That was before my decision!
      - ◆ That is humbling...and shows God's grace

<sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

#### ❖ Why God did this (chose what is less)

- To shame the wise
- To shame the strong
- To bring to nothing things that are
  - **SO THAT NO HUMAN BEING might boast in the presence of God...**
- **God wants to DESTROY the pride of this world...**
  - The pride Satan started when he lifted his heart above God...
  - Deciding what God had for him was not enough,
  - So he would try to take God's status...
  - And in every way he could he has tried to take away God's glory and...
- **Misplace it:....and in many ways**
  - Into worldly displays of power and intelligence

- Sport's teams
- Racing car's
- Nice or powerful Vehicle's
- Home's
- Great bodies, (guys or girls)
- Could be good grades in school
- And advanced degree
- A book written
- Investments
- Ability to win in board games...
- **If we do anything and take in the glory, that is God's alone for allowing us to do these things...**
  - **it is sin....**
  - Or if we praise, and glorify other things above God, and never see it is through Him these things come to be....
    - ◆ **It is sin**

### ➤ **God Hates Pride**

- **Illustration of Hate:**
  - We hate, because the object of our hatred destroys something we love.
  - If you truly love certain things, you must deeply hate other things...
  - Protection of Children vs Mistreatment of Children
  - Provision of food to people vs food withheld
  - Freedom vs slavery
- **Pride is an abomination to God**
  - Jeremiah 50:31, "Behold, I am against you, O proud one, says the Lord God of hosts; for your day has come, the time when I will punish you."
  - Jesus said in Luke 16:15, "What is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."
- **It ruins and tries to replace something God loves**
  - God loves the heart that boasts in him
  - He loves the person that **gives him credit** for what he has done
  - **God even loves his Name being glorified...**
    - ◆ HUH? – you may say that sounds prideful
    - ◆ But think about it....
      - If God be the highest and greatest being and he commands us to give glory only to him...
      - He could never exalt someone over himself,
      - For then He would be guilty of the same thing man does...
  - **Yet**, One of the great things about God is that he does glorify his children, beyond their own capacity.

### ➤ **Application to Corinthians**

- **Paul is like...WHY? Why are yall acting like this toward one another...?**
  - Look at who you were...VERY FEW OF YOU AMOUNTED TO ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD...
  - **And God has chosen those that were not so puffed up and great...**
    - ◆ To shame those that are...
    - ◆ To say to them, it is not about who you are on this earth...
    - ◆ It is not about your status....
    - ◆ It is about humility toward God!
- **So why are you guys acting like this....toward one another...as if you are better than anyone here.**
  - Stop....!

➤ **Application to You and Me....**

- I think it is clear isn't it....
- Don't ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever act like this....Ever!
- Paul says in Romans....
  - **Romans 12:3** <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
  - Don't think of himself more highly than he ought to think!
- First sign of trouble is if....instead of looking at yourself right now to see if this is true...
  - *You are thinking of someone else...saying...that's right...get em Preacher!*

<sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

❖ **Who we are now**

➤ **In Christ Jesus**

- We are.....
- This is good stuff here....

➤ **Wisdom from God**

- We are given the wisdom of God
- James says, **if anyone lack wisdom, he should ask of God....**
- It is instant and progressive....
- **We are given wisdom....which is knowing how to apply knowledge.....**
  - And we also grow in it...

➤ **Righteousness**

- **When we trust in Christ, we are given His Righteousness....**
  - We know He was perfect, and Holy...
  - And when we trust in Him....
  - We are considered as right....
- **We were once not right, and couldn't get right, but He made us right....**
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

➤ **Sanctification**

- **To be Set apart, or made Holy**
  - We are growing in Christ...
    - ◆ And this is made possible because of our union with Him....
  - The PROCESS of Sanctification.....
    - ◆ It is a process, that is already complete, yet ongoing.

➤ **Redemption**

- **To redeem means: to buy back**
  - **1 Corinthians 6:20** <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
  - **1 Peter 1:18-19** <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- **We were bought with the**
  - Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ **The Fact is:**

- No one on this earth is deserving, worthy, wise, noble, righteous
- Even those of great stature are of the same mold as all of us.
- **Example of Paul**
  - Self Righteous man turned “bond slave” of Jesus Christ.
- **No matter who we are:**
  - We must come to Christ in humility... in lowliness
  - Admitting our weaknesses
  - We have an inability to come to Him without His help...

<sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

#### ❖ Who deserves the credit?

- **The Lord Jesus Christ...**
  - And We have established this point throughout the sermon...
  - Our boasting, or bragging....
  - Should not ever be in ourselves...
- But in God alone!

#### ❖ Why did he have us Consider these things....

- **Pride has no place within the church**
  - He wants to make it clear that Status does not commend us to God.
- **He is not trying to make them feel bad about themselves....**
  - Saying, “*Hey Corinth...you guys are nothing but a bunch of losers*”
  - That would be hurtful.
- **He is trying to tell them...**
  - You did not need status, or philosophies, or special honors, or anything this world has to offer...
  - To come to Christ
  - And you do not need it now to keep Christ....
- **Remember the Disunity within the Church....**
  - He is doing His best to help them see how foolish and prideful and arrogant they had become.
- **Application for Us**
  - **All divisions and arguments in the church...**
    - Unless rightly done over false doctrines...
  - **Can be linked back to a problem with Pride....**
    - And God HATES pride...

#### ❖ Invitation

- **Will you come to God...**
- **Drop the pride of your life...**