


1 Corinthians 1:26-31


Boast Only in Christ

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Outline

- I. Intro 1:1-9
- II. Response to Reports 1:10-6:20
 - A. Church divided internally/Paul 1:10-4:21
 - 1. Division in the name of wisdom 1:10-17
 - 2. The Gospel: Ironic foolishness 1:18-2:5
 - 3. God's wisdom revealed by H.S. 2:6-16




God Chose The Foolish Things

1 Corinthians 1:24-25. but to those who are the called, Jews and Greeks, Christ the power and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many might not many noble...

*Sophia and dunatos = compare 1 Cor 1:24


* Paul wants the Corinthians to realize who they were in the worlds eyes at their calling. There was nothing appealing or commendatory about them (Deut 7:7).

 **God's Purpose In Choosing**

1 Cor 1:27-29...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, 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, so that no man may boast before God.

Ekl egorai = "The emphasis is not on election as such, but on the sovereignty of God who elects as He wills, and whom He wills" (Fee, NICNT).


Psalm 135:4, 6 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself...Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

 **God's Shaming of The Wise**

1 Cor 1:27-29...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, 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, so that no man may boast before God.


Psalm 6:10 All my enemies will be ashamed and greatly dismayed; They shall turn back, they will suddenly be ashamed.


Psalm 31:17 Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I call upon You; Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.


 **God Chooses The Shameful**

1 Cor 1:27-29...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, 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, so that no man may boast before God.

* Paul displays the lower class status of the majority of the Corinthian congregation to demonstrate the significance of God's merciful and gracious election!

 **God's Eschatological Judgment Has Begun!**
1 Cor 1:27-29...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, 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, so that no man may boast before God.
 Kat ar **gaw** = "to render ineffective, destroy, abolish"
1 Cor 2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away...(cf. 6:13; 13:8, 10; 15:24, 26)

 **The Culpability of This Age**
Hebrews 2:1-3 (Because Jesus is so much superior to even the angels!) For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.
Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed

 **We Are In Christ By God's Choice**
1 Corinthians 1:30-31 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."
 opwVrn kauchshtai pasa sar x enwpion tou qeou
 ex autou de urni Vesteen Cristw Ihsou...
"BUT OF HIM"
 1. Righteousness = forensic right standing before God
 2. Sanctification = **a.** Set apart (act) 1 Cor 6:11
 b. Holiness (process) Rom 6:19, 22 **c.** Positional
 3. Redemption = Ransomed from slavery (Rom 3:24)



Summary

Paul has obliterated any possibility that the Corinthians have wisdom or can find wisdom by merely human means. The Corinthian believers' longing for wisdom and seeking human leaders to boost their pride is akin to a blind man who, after receiving sight for the first time, chooses to sit in utter darkness!

Christ, and Him crucified is the only means of salvation, and the fullest expression of God's wisdom.
