

# 1Cor 1:26 – 2:5

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## God's call on our life

1Cor 1:26-31 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."

### Typical person who responds to God's call:

Not many wise - people highly regarded for their analytical skills and persuasive speech.  
Not many scribes - an expert in the Mosaic law; lawyers.  
Not many debaters - a person trained in public speaking.  
Not many mighty – Paul is likely referring to the upper-class of Corinthians.  
Not many noble - of high birth, nobility

**God delights in using** foolish, weak, lowly, and despise things (people) to nullify the wise, strong, exalted and respected things (people).

God called them, not because of what they were, but despite what they were!

### Christ became for the believer:

**Wisdom** - He is the expert in life

It is only in following Him that we walk upright.  
it is only in listening to Him that we hear the truth.

**Righteousness** - Righteousness has to do with our standing before God. We are justified: God declares us righteous in Jesus Christ. It comes not from what we can do for God but rather from what He is done for us, our own efforts cannot achieve it.

**Sanctification** – the process of becoming holy, set apart to belong to God. Our garments can only be kept unspotted from the world by walking with Christ.

**Redemption** – Redemption emphasizes the fact that we are set free because Jesus Christ paid the price for us on the cross. This will lead to complete redemption when Christ returns.

Every believer has all of these blessings in Christ. We have been saved (delivered from past sin) from the penalty of sin (**righteousness**); we are (presently) being saved from the power of sin (**sanctification**); and we will be saved (future) from eternal judgment of sin (**redemption**).

### The gospel answers 3 questions (1Cor 1:18-31)

**Question 1:** How can sinful people be in a right relationship with God who is holy and good?

**Answer:** As we believe in God's Son, Jesus Christ, his righteousness is reckoned to us (1Cor 1:30; Rom 4:6, 11, 22-24; 2Cor 5:19-21).

**Question 2:** How can our lives be changed for the better?

**Answer:** The cross makes us hate sin and receive power to live a new life of holiness (2Cor 5:17).

**Question 3:** How can we have the assurance of salvation when we still sin?

**Answer:** The death of Jesus secured our ultimate redemption (1Cor 1:30) and eternal enjoyment of God (Jn 17:3).

**Boast** = to trust in

The Corinthians had a tendency to be “puffed up” with pride (1Cor 4:6, 18-19; 5:2). The Gospel of God’s grace leaves no room for boasting. God is not impressed with our looks, our social position, our achievements, our natural heritage, or our financial status.

Since every believer is “in Christ,” and he has all that he needs, why compete or compare yourselves with others? It is the Lord who has done it all! “He that boast, let him boast in the Lord” (Jer 9:24; 2Cor 10:17).

## **The importance of preaching the gospel (the cross)**

1Cor 2:1-5 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

**It is important because** it brings salvation to all who believe (1Cor 1:5; Rom 1:16).

### **The cross of Jesus Christ is central to a “Christian worldview.”**

To the Jews the “word of the cross” was a scandal and not to be believed (1Cor 1:18-31).

To the Greeks it was madness and not to be believed (1Cor 1:21).

To Christians the cross (in view of the resurrection) is the power and wisdom of God (1Cor 2:2-5).

### **The power of the cross (1Cor 1:18) through it we receive:**

Our sins are forgiven, our debt is paid (Col 2:13-14).

Reconciliation with God (2Cor 5:18-21).

We have (enjoy) peace with God (Col 1:20).

The power of sin (self, old man) is broken over our life (Rom 6:22; Gal 2:20; 5:24; Col 2:20; 3:3).

The power and pull of the “world” is broken (Gal 6:14).

We can follow Jesus and live in self-denial (Phil 3:8).

We have unity with all believers, able to overcome all barriers (Eph 2:16).

### **The goal of preaching**

Is not to wow people with our “superior speech,” “persuasive words,” or great “wisdom.”

It is to proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done.

It is to help others receive faith and connect to God’s power.

This happens as we embrace weakness, inability, etc., which will cause fear and trembling.

#### **References used:**

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