

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 1

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**Introduction:** Acts 18 describes the founding of the church in Corinth. ([Map](#))

**Acts 18:1** “After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.”

- In Corinth Paul encountered Aquila and Priscilla, and Justus. Paul preached in the synagogue there and Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed along with his whole family, then more were added to the faith and baptized.
- Paul stayed in Corinth for 1 year and 6 months.
- Sosthenes, another or perhaps the next ruler of the synagogue brought a complaint against Paul and this fledgling church before the Roman pro-counsel, Gallio.
- Gallio threw the charges out as being issues of religion vs: civil or criminal charges, then the Greeks took Sosthenes out and beat him.
- Paul stayed a while, then went on to Ephesus, from where he wrote this letter.
- Paul stayed in Ephesus for 3 years establishing the church there. While he was there he received word of some of the problems that had developed in the church in Corinth, the factions that had developed and so on, the divisions, issues with morality, and how they celebrated the Lord’s supper, the ministry of the Holy Spirit in public assemblies, and issues of theology regarding the resurrection of the dead.
- So Paul wrote this epistle to address and perhaps correct these problems in the church.
- The theme of this book is: “God’s Wisdom.”

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10** “<sup>6</sup>However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, <sup>8</sup>which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” <sup>10</sup>But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

- This isn’t just about correction, it’s about being yielded to the wisdom of God in our hearts.

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V: 1 Paul (small), formerly "Saul."

**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

- The "new creature" often gets a new name to symbolize that inward change that has taken place, that new life that is now lived.

Abram - Abraham.

Jacob - Israel

Simon - Cephas / Peter

Saul to Paul.

- "called" to be an Apostle. Paul wasn't looking for power, prestige, or position - he just said:

**Acts 9:4-6** "4Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5And he said, "who are You Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

- It's hard to be something your not, or something your not called to be:

**2 Peter 1:10** "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."

- Paul knows that it was through the will of God.

*"1b... and Sosthenes our brother."*

- The last time was heard of Sosthenes is when he was dragging Paul to court before Gallio. (Acts 18) When Gallio dismissed the charges, the Greeks took Sosthenes out and beat him. Why? He had been their attorney, their representative before Gallio, when the charges were summarily dismissed they were humiliated before the court and took their frustration out on their attorney who either misled them or didn't represent them properly.
- Now we see Sosthenes "our brother" a fellow believer and companion of Paul.
- Speculation: the church / Paul reached out to this man and loved on him, and he got saved.

V: 2 To the “church” of God, (not of Corinth, but at Corinth) those who are “sanctified,” who call on Jesus.

- “Church” - (G-1577) “ecclesia” - called out ones.
- Then to sharpen the point - “*those who are “sanctified” in Christ Jesus.*”
- “Sanctified” - (G-37) “Hagiazo” - to make holy, to make clean, to render pure.

**2 Corinthians 6:17** “Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

- Being separate, set aside for God’s exclusive use, consecrated.

“*Called (to be) saints...*” some are called to be apostles, some pastors, teachers, etc. Some are called to be “ordinary” saints, believers.

- “to be” in italics meaning it was added by the translators. “Called saints...”
- We don’t work to become “saints.” It’s not a title reserved for a select, special few. We’re “saints” or not - based on our faith in Jesus.
- “Saints” - (G-40) “hagios” - (From Zodhiates) Holy, set apart, sanctified, consecrated, saint. It has a common root, hág-, with hagnós (53), chaste, pure. Its fundamental idea is separation, consecration, devotion to the service of God, sharing in God’s purity and abstaining from earth’s defilement. Pure, clean, ceremonially or morally clean.
- “...*both theirs and ours.*” Both their Lord and our Lord. We worship the same God.
- God set apart His church for His exclusive purposes, we belong to Him. We are to live for Him.

**Acts 20:28** “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

- We must never forget that even though we identify with the church, this church - it’s truly His church. He is the One who bought it with His own blood.

V: 3 Thus far the salutation of this letter has covered who it’s from, Paul. And who it’s to, the church in Corinth, to the believers. Now we have a benediction, a blessing.

- The Siamese twins of the NT, grace and peace always run together, always the understanding of God's grace, which leads to His peace.

Salutation:

“*<sup>3</sup>Grace<sup>1</sup> to you and peace<sup>2</sup> from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

↓                      ↓  
Charis                      Eirene

- Grace was the typical Grecian salutation. Peace (Shalom) being the typical Hebrew greeting.

“*Grace*” (G-5485) - particularly that which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, acceptance, for a kindness granted or desired, a benefit, thanks, gratitude.

- A favor done without expectation of return; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor
- God's grace is both positional & practical:

**Romans 5:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- We have peace with God, which is positional and un-conditional.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

“*Peace*” (G-1515) - “Eirene” the opposite of war and dissension, the absence of conflict.

Hebrew salutation:

- Shalom / peace: Not the mere absence of hostility, but God's blessing be upon you, good health, strength, wellbeing, and prosperity, God's favor.
- We also experience the peace of God. God's peace in very practical ways:

**Philippians 4:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Jesus said:

**Matthew 11:28-29** “<sup>28</sup>Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and

lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

- Lord Jesus Christ. Position, name, title.
  1. **Lord**: “Kurios”, supreme master, sovereign.
  2. **Jesus**: “Iesous” - Greek transliteration of Yeshua “God is Salvation”
  3. **Christ**: “Christos” - Hebrew: “Mashiyach”, translated Messiah, literally the Anointed One. He is Jesus the Christ.

V: 4 Paul couldn’t exactly say - “I thank my God for your righteousness...” because they weren’t all that righteous. Likewise he couldn’t say “I thank God for your faithfulness...” because they weren’t all that faithful.

- King of like, “when I think of you I’m grateful for the grace of God...”
- Paul is giving thanks to God for His grace. The blessings of God, the gifts of God are all bestowed upon us in and through the person of Jesus Christ, the grace of God by Jesus Christ, eternal life through Jesus Christ

**1 John 5:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

V: 5 We can declare the same thing, that our lives have been so enriched by Him.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- In all speech, utterance and knowledge: In actually understanding the realities surrounding us, having an eternal perspective, a biblical perspective - knowing the truth.
- Our lives are so much the better because of Him, and the knowledge of Him, abiding in Him, trusting in Him, walking with Him, having fellowship with Him - and the hope of being with Him forever.

**2 Peter 1:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

V: 6 In you, not “by you” but was confirmed in you. That is the witness of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:16** “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Jesus said:

**John 16:8-11** “<sup>8</sup>And when He has come He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin because they do not believe in Me: <sup>10</sup>of righteousness because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup>of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

- The witness of the Spirit confirms the truth of Jesus Christ in us.

V: 7 So that you come short of no gift; so that you don't fall short of any of the potential that is in you.

- Like the coaches would say, leave everything you've got on the field, no holding back, no saving up - use every bit of what God has given us for His glory!
- The gifts of the Spirit were in operation in the Corinthian church, yet there was something lacking, possibly even the misuse of some of those Spiritual giftings, hence this letter of correction.

Paul exhorts Timothy:

**1 Timothy 4:14** “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”

- Eagerly waiting and anticipating the soon return of our Lord Jesus!

**Philippians 3:20** “For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- The gifts of the Spirit, their exercise, or the presence of them is not based on merit, it is based on the Grace of God.

V: 8 Being confirmed to the end, in such a way that when the Lord comes we would not be ashamed.

**1 John 2:28** “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

- The Holy Spirit working in us:

**Jude 24-25** “<sup>24</sup>Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup>to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.”

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

- He will see us through, He is faithful!

V: 9 God is faithful! The faithfulness of God - He has called us into fellowship with Himself and with His Son.

**1 John 1:3** “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

- All of this has been the salutation and opening to the letter to the Corinthians, verse 10 gets into the substance of what he wants to address with them.

V: 10 The previous 9 verses contained the introduction and salutation, now Paul gets right to the point of instruction in which he is not in the least bit overbearing.

- He’s introduced himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ, which bears a lot of weight yet now he “pleads” with the church in Corinth... in KJV is “beseech” it has the connotation of “begging” - an invitation.
- To speak the same thing means to be in agreement, it’s a call to unity. That there would be no divisions, having the same mind, the same judgment or opinion.

**Romans 15:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Speaking the same things because we believe the same things, the same way.

**Philippians 1:27** “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.”

- That kind of unity is the work of the Holy Spirit in each life individually and corporately.

**Philippians 2:2-5** “<sup>2</sup>Fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

- Jesus is the head, and we're supposed to be the rest of the parts, submitted to the head - otherwise He would be schizophrenic and we'd be spastic.

**Colossians 1:18** “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.”

V: 11-12 Paul is authenticating his understanding of the situation by naming the source of his information. Paul routinely names names, in whatever situation he's in, positively and negatively.

- Paul is describing the factions that are developing based on the various teachers - who are all teaching the same thing, but people are identifying with the teacher vs: the subject they are teaching on which is Jesus.
- There is no “competition” within or between true servants of God.
- I don't think that any of this is a direct prohibition against denominations per se. The body of Christ is made up of many parts and the Methodists, Presbyterians, <sup>1</sup>Baptists, <sup>2</sup>Lutherans, <sup>3</sup>Assemblies of God, <sup>4</sup>Church of Christ, and many others all of which have a place in the body of Christ.
- I would say that there are probably people that we agree with and disagree with in each of these denominations regarding the basic tenants of Christ. Especially when it comes down to different styles of worship, traditional, liturgical, contemporary and so on.
- Sometimes it's just different strokes for different folks. There may be more serious issues with some of these groups, but it isn't always up to us to determine who is right and who is wrong.

V: 13 Paul uses himself as the example - which technically is a negative example, so he forgoes using Peter or Apollos as such so as not to appear to be critical of either of these men or their respective ministries.

- As I said earlier, he names names, but he is careful how he does it.
- Paul makes a valid point in this process: Is Christ divided - the implied answer is “no.”
- Was Paul crucified for you? “No.” Were you baptized in the name of Paul? Again, “no.”
- This is emphasizing just exactly who's church it is, it doesn't belong to any man.



**Acts 20:28** “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

V: 14-17a Who does the baptizing isn't nearly important as the heart of the one being baptized.

- Often times people want a specific person to baptize them, someone they identify with but that can morph into a wrong focus - the focus isn't on who is baptizing you, but on the One we identify with in His death, His burial, and His resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

- Paul is saying that he's glad to have been able to minimize that kind of drama.
- Paul's statement doesn't demean baptism, it just gives it a correct priority and order.
- The Gospel and people getting saved is paramount, baptism is a good thing, but not necessary for salvation.

**1 Peter 3:21b** (describing baptism) “baptism, not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

- This functions as a general refutation of the heresy of “baptismal re-generation” that regeneration, salvation is a result of being baptized, that you have to be baptized to be saved.

Regarding the thief on the cross:

**Luke 23:43** “And Jesus said to him, assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

People have greatly misunderstood:

**Mark 16:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

V: 17b Jesus didn't send Paul out to baptize, but to preach the Gospel, and not just in words - lest the cross be of no effect.

- Not with wisdom of words - but the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, in the power of the Spirit

- This could also be saying that he isn't just preaching the Gospel with his words, but with his actions as well.

**James 2:17-18, 20** “<sup>17</sup>Thus also faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” - “<sup>20</sup>But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

**James 1:22** “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

V: 18 The message, the Gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing, to the non-believer who is spiritually discerned. To us, to those who believe it is the power of God to change our lives.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

**Hebrews 4:2** “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

**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.”

- There is that kind of in-between or transitional group in whom the Spirit of God is working, coming along side, convicting of sin, and drawing to Himself.

**1 Corinthians 12:3b** “... no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

- The power of God: God's power to redeem us from our sins, through the provision that He made on the cross of Jesus Christ. How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures, that was the gospel that Paul preached, that was preached throughout the New Testament, that Christ died for our sins.

V: 19-20 Quoting from **Isaiah 29:14** - that the wisdom of this world, the wisdom of men will be brought to nothing.

**Romans 1:22** “Professing to be wise, they became fools,”

- The big bang theory, evolutionary theories, humanism, relativism, situational ethics, these things are the wisdom of men - they won't fare well in eternity.

**1 Corinthians 3:19** "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness.'"

- There are none wise except for God.

**1 Timothy 1:17** "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

V: 21 Finite man is never going to fully understand or know the Infinite God on this earth.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** "8For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

- It's not the preaching of foolishness, but the foolishness of the message preached. An imperfect messenger or tool, the preacher himself - who's been given the privilege of communicating something very valuable to those who will receive it.
- This is one of the basic differences between Christianity and every other world religion. All the other religions of the world have finite man reaching out to God, whereas in Christianity we have the infinite God reaching down to finite man to lift him up.
- So the world by wisdom, their own wisdom, their own religion did not know God.

V: 22 The Jews had asked Jesus many times to show them a sign. Paul tried to reason with the Greeks, but to no avail.

V: 23 But we preach a straight up Gospel message!

- It was a stumbling block to the Jews because they couldn't reconcile the two different or seemingly divergent lines of Messianic prophesy.
- One line that indicated that He would come to reign and rule in righteousness. Sitting upon the throne of David, there would be no more physical impairments, the deaf would hear, the mute would sing, the lame would walk, beating their swords into plow shares.

- The other Messianic line describing that He would be rejected by men, that He would be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, that He would be wounded for our transgressions. He would be bruised for our iniquities. That he would be numbered with the transgressors in His death, and that God would lay upon Him the iniquities of us all, that they would pierce His hands and His feet, and make His soul an offering for our sin.
- Because these were so different and seemingly un-reconcilable the Jews more or less chose the prophecy that they liked, and rejected the one they didn't like and when Jesus came to fulfill the suffering Messianic prophecy first, they were stumbled by it.
- To the Greeks it was utter foolishness to think that God would suffer and die for man. Their gods were selfish, lustful, egotistical gods made in their own image it was foolishness and unfathomable to think of a loving self-sacrificing God who would sacrifice Himself for His children.

V: 24 But to those who were called, touched by the Spirit of God - whether Jew or Greek it was the power and wisdom of God all rolled into one.

#### Review: V: 22-24

- Isn't it interesting that back in the days of Jesus and Paul the Jews were looking for signs and the Greeks were looking for wisdom through philosophy.
- Today we see the dramatic proliferation of the signs and wonders movements - oh the Devil is saying, you want signs and wonders - well hey, here they are...

Jesus said:

**Matthew 16:4** "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah..."

- Others are looking for hidden wisdom, knowledge of secret things - beyond what others want - so here's the enemy writing books like The Harbinger, the DaVinci Codes, Embraced by the Light, the Shack - coming up with all kinds of false doctrines, Beth Moore and many others engaging in "contemplative prayer" - "prayer labyrinths" and on it goes.

**1 Peter 1:19-21** "19And so we have (a more sure word) the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

- The simple straight forward Gospel message is what Paul preached, and seems to be the most effective method of preaching generally.
- The simple straight forward preaching of the Gospel doesn't depend on the skill of the preacher, but it depends on the power of the Holy Spirit to break through to a person's heart.

**1 Corinthians 12:3** "... no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

- Christ is both the power of God and the wisdom of God:

**John 1:1-3** "1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

**Colossians 2:9** "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;"

- Jesus is literally the power of God and the wisdom of God in every way.

V: 25 The foolishness of God; if there were such a thing, is wiser than the wisdom of men.

**1 Corinthians 3:19** "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He catches the wise in their own craftiness."

- This is simply that comparison of an infinite God to His finite creation - there really is no comparison.

V: 26 The implication here, or perhaps the direct statement is that God uses foolish men to accomplish His will.

NIV: "26Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth."

CJB: "26Just look at yourselves, brothers—look at those whom God has called! Not many of you are wise by the world's standards, not many wield power or boast noble birth."

- Examining the Apostles of Jesus - Paul would seem to be an exception, whereas the earlier Apostles, fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, seemingly ordinary men as opposed to trained rabbi's or political, or military figures - just ordinary, foolish men who were used of God to turn the whole world upside down.

- Not too many college professors, just a bunch of goofy misfits. For a season I didn't think I was qualified to be a Calvary Chapel Pastor, I hadn't used drugs, I'd never been arrested, I didn't know how to surf... but God called me anyway.
- There are a lot of denominations where a college degree and beyond are mandatory, a seminary education being the minimum. I was invited to speak at another church camp once as a Youth Pastor, after getting things all set up I received a phone call from the contact person who wanted to know about my education - after which I was dis-invited - God uses those who are not wise according to the flesh...

V: 27-28 God uses the simple to confound the wise, He uses the weak to put to shame the mighty.

- He chooses simple people to bestow His love and His grace upon them.
- A friend of mine who pastors a local church has their church slogan over the door to their church. *"Simply teaching the Bible simply."*
- It's all intended to be simple, simple enough for a child to be able to grasp it. A child can believe the Gospel and come into a relationship with Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

- It's all according to the Scriptures, that makes it pretty simple.

V: 28 Continuing in the same thought, He uses the base things, the lower things, the things that are despised - the insignificant or un-important things to demonstrated His power - and that He would be glorified.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** "... My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

V: 29 That no flesh - none - would glory in His presence - He alone will be glorified.

- God uses the weak and the foolish so that He would get the glory.
- The point is that if God allowed the mighty, the celebrated orator, the PHD's and ThD's to carry the message - there would always be that aspect of the gifting of the messenger.

- Look at how educated, brilliant, and handsome, and charismatic that guys is, no wonder that church or that ministry is so successful. It would be taking glory away from God and giving it to man, God somehow sharing in the glory, not getting all of it!

**Isaiah 42:8** “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.”

**Isaiah 6:1** “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”

- It wasn't until the man was taken out of the picture that the people could truly see the Lord in His glory.
- When Peter and John had gone back to fishing, when they got tired of waiting for Jesus at the Sea of Galilee, they went and fished all night and caught nothing.
- Jesus called out to them from the shore “have you caught any fish...?” They answered “no” - He brought them to a place of acknowledging what they could do without Him.
- Then He said cast your net on the right side of the boat - which they did - and it was instantly full of so many fish that they couldn't haul it in.
- Immediately they recognized that it was Jesus and gave glory to Him.

V: 30 Jesus is everything, and He is our all in all. He became wisdom for us, He is our righteousness, He is our sanctification and redemption.

- There is no room for self wisdom, self-righteousness in Christianity, we can't sanctify or redeem ourselves - we are completely dependent upon Him.
- Apart from Him, we have none of these things - but in Him, we have all these things!

Wisdom:

**Colossians 2:3** (of Christ) “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Righteousness:

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Sanctification:

**John 17:19** “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

Redemption:

**Romans 3:24** “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

- God demonstrates His wisdom by means of the righteousness, sanctification, and redemption that we have in Christ.

Each of these words carries a special theological meaning for Christians:

- *Righteousness*: has to do with our standing before God.
- *Justification*: We are justified: God declares us righteous in Jesus Christ.
- But we are also *sanctified*, set apart to belong to God and to serve Him.
- *Redemption* emphasizes the fact that we are set free because Jesus Christ paid the price for us on the cross.
- This leads to complete redemption Christ Jesus.
- **So, in one sense, we have the three tenses of salvation given here:**
  1. We have *been* saved from the penalty of sin (righteousness);
  2. We are *being* saved from the power of sin (sanctification);
  3. We shall *be* saved from the presence of sin (redemption).
- Every believer has all of these blessings in Jesus Christ!
- Because of that, why glory in men? We should glory in the Lord and not in ourselves or our spiritual leaders.
- Because He is these things we give Him glory, and honour, and praise - we worship Him!

**V: 31 Quoting from Jeremiah 9:24.**

**Galatians 6:14** “But God forbid that I should boast / glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”