

## 1 Cor 1:18-25

- I. The message of the cross is purposely opposed to human standards (18-21)
  - A. The message of the cross is received differently by different groups (18)
    - 1. Neg: For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing (18a)
    - 2. Pos: But to us, to those being saved, it is the power of God (18b)
  - B. God purposely made the standard for salvation opposed to human standards (19-21)
    - 1. God promised to invalidate human wisdom and intelligence for salvation (19)
      - a For, it is written: (19a)
      - b God promised to invalidate human wisdom and intelligence (19b-c)
        - 1) I will destroy the wisdom of the wise (19b)
        - 2) And I will invalidate the intelligence of the intelligent (19c)
    - 2. And by the cross, God has actually invalidated human wisdom (20-21)
      - a People of human standing are not important by God's standards (20a-c)
        - a) Where is the wise man? (20a)
        - b) Where is the scholar? (20b)
        - c) Where is the debater of this world? (20c)
      - b God has purposely excluded human wisdom as the basis of salvation (20d-21)
        - 1) Hasn't God shown the wisdom of the world to be foolish? (20d)
        - 2) God purposed to reveal salvation in a way that excludes human merit & standing (21)
          - a) Neg: For, because in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom (21a)
          - b) Pos: God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is proclaimed (21b)
- II. God's way of salvation is contrary to human standards (22-25)
  - A. Neg: Humans value those outwardly impressive by human standards (22)
    - 1. Because both Jews ask for signs (22a)
    - 2. And Greeks seek wisdom (22b)
  - B. Pos: God values the truth, wisdom and power of His way of the cross (23-25)
    - 1. But we proclaim Christ having been crucified (23a)
    - 2. This is opposed to human standards (23b-25)
      - a Neg: This is offensive to human standards (23b-c)
        - 1) This is a scandal to Jews (23b)
        - 2) And it is foolishness to the Gentiles (23c)
      - b Pos: God's power is greater than human standards (24-25)
        - 1) But to those that are called, both Jews and Greeks, it is Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God (24)
        - 2) Because God's ways are better than human standards (25)
          - a) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than that [wisdom] of humans (25a)
          - b) And the weakness of God is stronger than that [strength] of humans (25b)