

Paul's First Letter to  
the Corinthians

# FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling  
block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those  
who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ  
the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

## Class Time

- Class Officer Reports
- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading and Summary – 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
- Class Discussion:
  1. *Why is it important for us to know that salvation is a process and not just a completed act?*
  2. *Why did the Jews reject the gospel? Why did the Greeks reject the gospel?*
  3. *Why has God chosen to use weak people with no social or intellectual standing to spread the gospel?*
- Outline and Lesson

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

<sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

<sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

<sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

<sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

<sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

<sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

<sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

<sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<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.”



## 1st Corinthians – 1:10-31

### Summary Statement

Paul appeals to the Corinthians to end their division into parties aligned with human personalities and abilities and, instead, to recognize the primacy of the preaching of the cross. Christ crucified is folly and an affront to those who are perishing, but to those being saved it is the evident power and wisdom of God, whose weakness is stronger and whose folly is wiser than men. He asks the Corinthians to consider their own circumstances – not many wise, not many powerful, not many of noble lineage – and to recognize that God is the one who brought them into Christ in order to preclude boasting by men.

**Discussion  
Question #1**

Note in 1:18 salvation is spoken of as being an ongoing process: “those who are being saved.” Why is it important for us to know that salvation is a process and not just a completed act?



**Discussion  
Question #2**

From our passage, why did the Jews reject the gospel? Why did the Greeks reject the gospel?

**Discussion  
Question #3**

From our passage, why has God chosen to use weak people with no social or intellectual standing to spread the gospel?

I. The Great Schism vv 10-17

A. Appeal for Unity

B. Power of the Cross

II. The Great Standard vv 18-25

A. The Preaching of the Cross: the power and wisdom of God

B. The Preaching of the Cross: a stumbling block and folly

C. The Preaching of the Cross: the foolishness and weakness of God

### III. The Great Reversal vv 26-31

#### A. The calling of God

1. Foolish  $\leftrightarrow$  Wise
2. Weak  $\leftrightarrow$  Strong
3. Nobodies  $\leftrightarrow$  Somebodies  
-- Illus: Clown Fish

#### B. The Wisdom from God

- A. What is this wisdom:? – righteousness and sanctification and redemption
- B. What is the boasting? -- understanding and knowing God. Jeremiah 9:23-24

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

<sup>23</sup>Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,  
<sup>24</sup>but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”