

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 10 January 31, 2023 – February 05, 2023

Unit III: GOD’S Call and Its Responsibilities

Subject: Wisdom and Foolishness

Text: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Key Verse: Base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath GOD chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; that no flesh should glory in his presence (1 Corinthians 1: 28-29, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) **By Foolishness (1 Corinthians 1: 18-21)**
- 2) **By Faith (1 Corinthians 1: 22-25)**
- 3) **By Frailty (1 Corinthians 1: 26-31)**

Introduction

When humans chooses leaders, they choose them according to their abilities to increase their chances of getting the best available leader. Now, GOD chooses people all the time, but HE does not require the best, the brightest, or the highly skilled individual for the position. God often chooses the least likely person to accomplish HIS purposes, because it is of HIS own self-sufficiency. GOD’S Spirit qualifies the unqualified, GOD said in 2 Corinthians 12: 9a, “**My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**” Thanks be to GOD that HE does not rely on humans eloquent speech, intelligence, nor their giftedness but on HIS own wisdom and power. The purpose of GOD calling and choosing humans is to win souls through the simple preaching of the Gospel.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **By Foolishness (1 Corinthians 1: 18-21)**

The preaching of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST, especially the CROSS and CRUCIFIXION of JESUS CHRIST is foolishness to the unbelievers but unto us who are saved, it is the power of GOD. Paul declared that GOD did not send him to baptize the people just for the sake of making converts, but rather to preach the Gospel simple and free, without diminishing the power of the CROSS of JESUS CHRIST that leads to eternal salvation (Read 1 Corinthians 1: 17). Paul said that the preaching of the Gospel is the powerful revelation of GOD’S power to save, despite the people thinking that it is foolishness to them who choose to perish in their sin (1 Corinthians 1: 18). Paul, also, said that GOD would destroy the wisdom of the wise (Read Isaiah 29: 14). GOD vows to shock them with a great surprise, to them who have no true love or true devotion for HIM (GOD), and those who seek to know HIM just based on their empty religion, wisdom, and intelligence (1Corinthians 1: 19). GOD knows that not even the greatest minds on Earth cannot understand or explain what the Almighty GOD has done (1 Corinthians 1: 20-21). Paul explained the impact or effect (the change) for those who believe salvation is through JESUS CHRIST to GOD; and to those who count the Gospel as foolishness, it is sin, that leads to a final condemnation from GOD.

Wisdom and Foolishness!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **By Faith (1 Corinthians 1: 22-25)**

Now, many of the Greeks and Jews had their own ideas and opinions about JESUS CHRIST and how HE would come, were inclined to reject JESUS CHRIST, some of us are just like them (Greeks, Jews) our minds are already made up about JESUS CHRIST and how he would come, and if it is not the way we think that HE should come we are inclined to reject JESUS CHRIST (1 Corinthians 1: 22). You see, some looked for specific signs and wonders, and others looked for a military conqueror who will bring about the restoring of David's throne. But Paul preached the message of JESUS CHRIST crucified, the true message that found its mark only in the hearts of those who were ready to receive the fullness of GOD'S grace by faith (1 Corinthians 1: 23). Paul said that the call of GOD preach JESUS CHRIST crucified, which is a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness unto the Greeks but in JESUS CHRIST, everyone who believes receives access to the power and wisdom of GOD (1 Corinthians 1: 24). Paul stated that the foolishness of GOD is wiser than the wisest men, GOD'S weakness is stronger than the mightiest of men (1 Corinthians 1: 25). Now, those who confesses and repent are led by the Spirit from sin into a life of salvation. GOD'S wisdom and might, GOD'S guidance and empowerment help them to overcome future obstacles and challenges in life.

Wisdom and Foolishness!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **By Frailty (1 Corinthians 1: 26-31)**

Paul reminds them that not wise men of the flesh, not many mighty, not many nobles, are called (1 Corinthians 1: 26). But it is GOD who chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and GOD has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty (1 Corinthians 1: 27). GOD chooses the frail things and the despised things of the world to bring to nought the things that are (1 Corinthians 1: 28). Paul said to the believers that this is done, so, that no flesh should glory in GOD'S presence (1 Corinthians 1: 29). Paul let the believers know that it is because of GOD that you are in JESUS CHRIST, who has become for them and us the wisdom of GOD, which is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption (1 Corinthians 1: 30). So, Paul, concluded by saying believers glory in GOD and not of themselves (1 Corinthians 1: 31).

Wisdom and Foolishness!

Nuggets of the Lesson

- 1) **The preaching of the Gospel is foolishness unto them who believe not but unto us which are saved it is the power of GOD.**
- 2) **GOD is wiser than the wisest of men.**
- 3) **GOD chooses the things that are frail in the world to bring to nought the things that are.**
- 4) **Not many wise men of the flesh, not many mighty, not many nobles, are called.**
- 5) **This is done so that no flesh shall glory in GOD'S present.**

