

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1:18-31

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD - PART 2

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Salvation, Righteousness, Walk, Encouragement

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **:19** For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." **:20** Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? **:21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. **:22** For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; **:23** but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, **:24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **:25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **:26** For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. **27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; **:28** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, **:29** that no flesh should glory in His presence. **:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - - **:31** that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

In Part One We Saw

3 Key Foundations to What a Real Church Should Be Like

- 1.) A united church – will have the same Lord v.10**
- 2.) A united church – will share the same vision v.11-13**
- 3.) A united church – will keep the same priority v.14-17**

Paul Introduces Again to the Corinthians
a New and Better thing to Boast in. It's in the Message of the Cross!

ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

4.) A united church – will have the same message v.18-21

4a.) Our message is the cross

For **the message of the cross** is **foolishness** to those who are **perishing**, but to us **who are being saved** (*to be enroute or journeying*) it is **the power** of God.

The message of the cross “exposes” what’s inside a man.
Those who are “on their way, on the road, following the map” to “Perishing”
“To Be a Perishing Fool enroute to Perishing”

The Centrality of the Cross

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.

The Image of the Cross

Galatians 3:13

Christ **has redeemed us** from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us** for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”,

The Shock & Awe of the Cross

4b.) Our message is salvation

:19 For it is written: “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*” **:20** Where is the **wise**? Where is the **scribe**? Where is the **disputer** of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Notice: Paul uses the O.T. – the Hebrew Scriptures to make his point.

(Paul Goes to Isaiah 29:14)

The Wise was The **Expert** // The Script was the **Interpreter** //
The Disputer was the **Philosopher**

How Has Your **Scholarly Achievements** Affected Your Culture?
How Has Your **Religious Systems** Affected Your Culture?
How Has Your **Greek Philosophies** Affected Your Culture?

2 Corinthians 4:3-5

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **:4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **:5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord,

Philippians 3:17-18

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. **:18** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of **the cross** of Christ:

Why is Christianity Hated?

Because of the cross –it’s the cross that says
A man died there / But why did he die there? / Because Jesus had to be crucified there
/ Why? - Because we need salvation / Why? – We need our sins forgiven / Why? –
Because there is a heaven and a hell....

You Can’t Avoid The Cross

You must accept it or reject it but you will never avoid it

John 12:32-33

“And I, if I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” **33** This Jesus said, signifying by what manner of death He would die.
(Lifting Up – Crucifixion)

A UNITED CHURCH WILL HAVE THE SAME MESSAGE

4c.) Our message is preached

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the **foolishness of the message preached** to save those who believe.

Salvation happens (and can only happen) when the message is preached (cross + preached = salvation)

Acts 2:36-37

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” :37 Now when they heard *this*, they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” :38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent,

Do you wanna know why it can't be a Hindu or Muslim or a Buddhist? – They have no cross, they have no message, they have no salvation.

There's No Place for Atonement

The Greater for the Lessor / The Just for the Unjust / The Holy for the Unholy

America, since you've decided to

Remove prayer and the Bible from your public schools
(How are your institutions of learning going for you?)

America, since you've decided to

Remove the ten commandments from your courthouses
(How's your justice system working out for ya?)

America, since you've decided to

Remove judgment and discernment and replace them with political correctness
(How's that working out for ya?)

America, since you've decided to

Remove 'In God We Trust' from the Once mighty Dollar
(How's that working out for ya?)

America, since you've decided to

Remove the Cross from Public View and from Private Property
(How's that worked out for ya?)

Honestly / I Know Something About Me and You

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked;
Who can know it? :10 I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind,

ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

5.) A united church – will keep the same focus

v.22-25

:22 For Jews **request** a sign, and Greeks **seek** after wisdom; :23 but **we preach Christ crucified**, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, :24 **but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ - the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God**. :25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

5a.) Jesus Christ was crucified

:22 For Jews **request a sign**, and Greeks **seek after wisdom**;
:23 but **we preach Christ crucified**,

Hebrews 12:2

looking (focused) unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This was and is the Mind of God,
That humanity would have to face the cross

5b.) Jesus Christ is sufficient

23 to the **Jews a stumbling block** and to the Greeks **foolishness**, :24 **but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ - the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God**.

5c.) Jesus Christ continues to be issue

25 Because the **foolishness of God** is wiser than men,
and the **weakness of God** is stronger than men.

ONE CHURCH UNDER GOD

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE UNITE IN TRUTH!

6.) A united church - will rejoice in the same hope v.26-31

6a.) All who are willing - are welcome

:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not **many wise** according to the flesh, not **many mighty**, not **many noble**, are called **:27** But **God has chosen the foolish things** of the world to put to shame **the wise**, and **God has chosen the weak things** of the world to put to shame **the things** which are mighty;

The Queen of England, Elizabeth II

(Elizabeth Alexandra Mary)

was once asked if *1 Corinthians 1:26-31* troubled her much regarding her salvation in Christ:

“Is there hope for you, queen, seeing that the scriptures teach that:

“not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called”?

Her answer was extremely insightful, personal and accurate.

“The Scripture teaches “Not many”, it does not say “Not any” -

I, dear sir, have been saved - by an M”.

Romans 8:14

For as **many** as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Galatians 3:26-28

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **:27** For as **many** of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

6b.) All who cannot save themselves - can be saved

:28 and **the base things** of the world and **the things which are despised** God has chosen, and **the things which are “not”**, to bring to nothing the things that are, **:29** that no flesh should **glory** in His presence.

that no flesh should **glory** in His presence
(Be able to stand or to have a footing. Having no foundation.)

6c.) All who are His - are His

30 But of **Him** (*The Father*) you are in **Christ Jesus**, (*The Son*) who became for us (1) **wisdom** from God - - and (2) **righteousness** and (3) **sanctification** and (4) **redemption** - - **:31** that, as it is written, “He who **glories**, let him **glory** in the LORD.”

Is There a Contradiction Here?

29 that no flesh should **glory** in His presence
(*not being able to stand or to have a footing. having no foundation.*)

:31 that, as it is written,
“He who **glories**, let him **glory** in the LORD.”
(*Being able to stand, to have a footing. having a foundation.*)

There’s an Exclamation Here!

But **Of Him** (*The Father*) you are in **Christ Jesus**, (*The Son*) who became for us (1) **wisdom** from God and (2) **righteousness** and (3) **sanctification** and (4) **redemption**

Galatians 6:14

God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Consider This Jesus of the Bible, This God of the Cross.
This “Gospel God” That We Worship Here.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you, I knew you; **Isaiah 44:2** I am the LORD who has created you from your mother’s womb, I will help you; **Genesis 1:27** I created you in My *own* image; in the image of God I created you; male and female **Acts 17:28** for in Me you live and move and have your being,. **Acts 17:29** Therefore, since you are My offspring, **Psalms 139:1** I have searched for you and known you. **:2** I know your sitting down and your rising up; I understand your thoughts afar off. **:3** I comprehend your path and your lying down, And I’m acquainted with all your ways. **Matthew 10:30** I have numbered the very hairs of your head. **:31** Therefore, do not fear. **Romans 5:8** For I demonstrated My love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, My Son, Jesus Christ died for you. **Romans 5:10** So if when you thought I was your enemy, I reconciled you to Me through the death of My Son, how much more, now having been reconciled, you shall be saved by My Son’s life. **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of My Son, Lord, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. **Psalms 139:14** you are fearfully and

wonderfully made :**15** Your very existence was not hidden from Me when I formed you in that secret place. When I assembled you in your mother's womb, no one could see me at work. **Psalm 139:16** I saw you when you were yet unformed and I knew the day of your birth and I know the moment of your death. I have even ordained the very events of your life that are written in my book before time began. **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Me, and I will never change that. **Jeremiah 29:11** My thoughts that I think about you are not mean, they are thoughts of peace and hope – I have a great future planned for you.

Jeremiah 31:3 Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love and it's by My love for you that I invite you to be with Me. **Psalm 139:17** I have tender thoughts about you and they are more than you could count - more than the sands of the sea! **Ephesians 3:20** I want to do for exceedingly great things beyond what you could ask or think. **Jer. 29:13** If you decide to seek Me and find Me, then you will. **Psalm 37:4** Delight yourself in Me and I will give you the desires of your heart. **2 Corinthians 1:4** I will comfort you in all your troubles, **Rev. 7:17** Soon I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. **John 3:16** I have loved you so much that I gave My only special Son, that if you would only trust in Him, you would not perish in eternity but have everlasting life. **John 14:6** My Son Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life. And through Him we will be together forever. He died for you so that you could be washed clean and given new clothes of brilliant light and now, that's how I see you. **John 6:37** so then if you will come to Me I will never turn you away.

The Invitation & Challenge

What We Need To Do Church is To –
- Get Out!

End of Study
