

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient Greek ruins. In the foreground and middle ground, several tall, weathered stone columns stand, some with their capitals intact. Behind them, a large, rugged mountain rises against a clear blue sky. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of historical grandeur and timelessness.

The

CRUCIFIED CHRIST

The Wisdom And
Power of God

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 (NKJV)

¹⁸ 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?

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 (NKJV)

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.

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 (NKJV)

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;

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I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 (NKJV)

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.*"

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

Two Views of The Gospel (1:18)



1 Corinthians 1:18
(NKJV)

¹⁸ 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.

- ♦ **The preaching of the cross – the central message of the gospel –** (2:2; Luke 24:46,47)
- ♦ **To those that perish it is foolishness** – (2 Thes 2:10)
- ♦ **To those who are “being saved,”** [NKJV; NASB; ESV; NIV] (*sozo* – denotes linear action), **it is the power of God** – (Rom. 1:16,17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Jam. 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Heb. 4:12)

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

The Folly Of Human Wisdom (1:19-25)



1 Corinthians 1:19
(NKJV)

***19 For it is written: "I
will destroy the
wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing
the understanding of
the prudent."***

- ✦ **Human wisdom is incapable of delivering men from destruction –** (Isaiah 29:14; 1 Cor. 3:19; Job 5:12,13; Prov. 14:12; Jer. 8:9)
- ✦ **God has made foolish the wisdom of this world –** (1:20; Isaiah 44:25)
- ✦ **Can't know God by human wisdom –** (1:21; 2:13,14; Mat. 11:25; Acts 17:18; Rom. 1:21-26)
- ✦ **We can ONLY know God through the message preached –** (1:21; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Thes 2:13)

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The Folly Of Human Wisdom (1:19-25)



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(NKJV)

***19 For it is written: "I
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- ♦ **Jews request a sign** – (1:22; Mat 12:38,39; 16:1-4; Luke 11:16-20)
- ♦ **Greeks seek after wisdom** – *"They seek for schemes of philosophy and religion that shall depend on human wisdom, and they therefore despise the gospel."*— Barnes' - (1:22; Acts 17:18-21)
- ♦ **A crucified Messiah was a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks** – (1:23; Isaiah 8:14,15; 1 Pet 2:4-8)

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

The Folly Of Human Wisdom (1:19-25)



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***19 For it is written: "I
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- ✦ **But, to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks** – (1:24; 1:2,9; Rom. 1:16,17; 2 Thes 2:14)
- ✦ **Believers considered the message of the crucified Christ as God's power and wisdom** – (1:24,30; Rom. 1:4; Isaiah 55:8,9)
- ✦ **What men considered "weak" and "foolish" is the only power and strength that can save** – (1:25; cf. Jos. 6:1-21; Judges 7:1-23; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Cor. 1:17; Mark 16:16)

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

The Nature of Those Called - (1:26-31)



1 Corinthians 1:26
(NKJV)

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

- ✦ **There were/are not many wise and noble called** - (*according to the flesh*) - (1:26; 3:18-20; John 7:47-49; Mat. 19:16-22; Luke 18:24,25)
- ✦ **God “chose” the “foolish,” “weak” and “base” things of the world to “confound” the wise** - i.e. “put to shame” - (1:27,28; Psalm 8:2; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Mat. 5:3)
- ✦ **Man CANNOT boast in himself – but ONLY in a crucified Savior!** – (29-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:2; Eph. 2:8,9)

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The Nature of Those Called - (1:26-31)




1 Corinthians 1:30
(NKJV)

30 But of Him you are
in Christ Jesus, who
became for us
wisdom from God--
and righteousness
and sanctification
and redemption--

- ★ **Jesus Christ is our Wisdom** –
(in opposition to human wisdom)
- ❖ **Righteousness** – *(Only through Christ can one stand approved before God)*
- ❖ **Sanctification** – *(Only through Christ can one be made holy)*
- ❖ **Redemption** – *(Only through Christ can one find freedom from the bondage & corruption of sin)*

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

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- ✦ People in the world marvel at the church, because we believe that Christ's death could save us.
 - ✦ No Jew in his circumcision or Greek in his wisdom can stand before God justified.
 - ✦ All that we depend on for salvation originates with God—life, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption—through Christ.
 - ✦ Whatever we are that brings us into fellowship with God has been done for us through Christ. "We are of God because we are of Christ." – (1:12,13)
 - ✦ No man can glory in his position, wisdom, strength or works – for without God sending His Son and revealing His word through Him – we would all be lost and without hope!

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

IN OUR TEXT WE SEE:

- ◆ **THERE ARE TWO VIEWS OF THE GOSPEL — 18** (Those who consider it foolishness and are lost, and those who recognize it as the power of God and are saved)
- ◆ **THE FOLLY IN TRUSTING HUMAN WISDOM — 19-25**
- ◆ **THE NATURE OF THOSE CALLED — (The humble) - 26-31**



THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO THE WISDOM & POWER OF GOD?

MARK 16:15-16

(NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.



THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

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Prepared December 16-19, 2010

Preached December 19, 2010

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