

Christ the Wisdom and Power of God - 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Topics: Call, Fear, Foolishness, God, God's Will, Gospel, Greatness, Holy Spirit, Ignorance, Knowledge, Learning, Power, Strength, Weaknesses, Wisdom, World

Open It

- * 1. In what way might your life-style seem foolish to some of your friends or relatives?
- 2. In what ways did you depend on your parents' wisdom when you were a child?

Explore It

- 3. To whom is the message of the Cross foolishness? (1:18)
- 4. To whom is the message of the Cross powerful? (1:18)
- 5. How can people hear the message of Christ differently? (1:18)
- 6. What does God's message mean to the person being saved? (1:18)
- 7. How does the message of the Cross contrast with what most people consider wise? (1:18-19)
- 8. How does God get His message across? (1:19-31)
- * 9. How does God's wisdom contrast with the world's wisdom? (1:20)
- 10. How did the demands of the Jews and Greeks contrast with the Corinthians' hope? (1:22-23)
- 11. How do God's attributes compare with ours? (1:25-26)
- 12. What were the Corinthians like before they were called? (1:26-27)
- 13. How does God use the foolish and weak things of the world? (1:27)
- * 14. Why does God express His power and wisdom through "foolish," "weak," and "lowly" means? (1:28-29)
- 15. What has Jesus Christ become for us? (1:30)
- 16. What kind of boasting is good? (1:31)
- * 17. How did Paul's regard for the world's wisdom affect his preaching and testimony? (2:1-5)
- 18. Why was it good that Paul came to Corinth in weakness and fear? (2:3-5)
- 19. On what should our faith rest? (2:5)

Get It

- 20. Why do Christians and non-Christians value the message of Christ so differently?
- * 21. What are some examples of the world's wisdom?
- 22. What common difficulties do people mention when trying to understand the gospel of Christ?
- 23. What are some doctrines of the Christian faith that are difficult for non-Christians to understand?
- 24. When have you heard non-Christians balk at the message of Christ?
- 25. How has God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- 26. In what ways do God's commands seem like foolishness to the non-Christians you know?
- 27. What difference should it make in your life to know that God chooses the weak and lowly people of the world to do His work?
- * 28. What unbelievers have you known who wanted miraculous signs or airtight philosophical proofs before believing in Christ?
- 29. Why do you think people demand signs, or proof, of God?
- 30. What's wrong with demanding signs, or proof, from God?
- 31. How can you share the truth of the gospel with people who demand signs, or proof, of God?
- 32. How is it encouraging to know that Paul was weak and fearful?
- 33. What does it mean to preach with a "demonstration of the Spirit's power"?
- 34. How can we make sure that our faith rests on God's power and not our own wisdom?
- 35. Whom could you encourage with the knowledge that God's weakness is stronger than our strength?
- 36. What kinds of wisdom do you depend on that could be changed by the light of God's Word?

Apply It

- 37. To what area of your life now could you apply God's "foolishness"? How?
- 38. From whom can you learn more of God's wisdom? How and when?
- * 39. How could you seek out God's wisdom and power this week? Where?
- 40. What can you do this week to witness for Christ in only God's wisdom and not your own craftiness?