

## 1 Corinthians 2

1. Why did God through Paul write 1 Corinthians?

-Because Christians in the church at Corinth were arguing with one another, and there were many problems.

2. As God and Paul begin 1 Corinthians by encouraging the Christians at Corinth, what does this teach us?

-This teaches us that we should first encourage others before we talk about their problems.

3. Is the job of teaching others about God only the job of the pastor?

-No.

-God wants all Christians to be able to teach others about Him.

4. What is a major difference between other religions and true Christianity?

-Other religions of the world teach that people make themselves holy.

-Only true Christianity teaches us that God alone can make us holy.

5. As Christians, how many spiritual gifts do we lack?

-None.

-As we learned in Ephesians 1:3, God has withheld no gifts from us, but has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.

6. If we do not lack any spiritual gift, what is our

problem?

-Our problem is that we do not understand that God has given us these gifts, and therefore, we do not use them.

7. What is the first problem that God and Paul talk about?

-The Christians in the church at Corinth were not unified, but were divided.

8. Why were the Christians in Corinth not unified?

-The first reason was that people were following their teacher more than following Christ.

-The second reason was that the people who said that they were following Christ did not want to listen to the teaching of others.

9. What is most important for a teacher?

-That they teach the Word of God, and not their own ideas.

10. Should we have faith in people?

-No.

-We should have faith only in Christ.

11. When we have more faith in teachers and leaders than in Christ, what will happen?

-This will divide the Church.

-In this lesson, God and Paul continue to teach us about the problem of a lack of unity in the Church.

-Because Christians in Corinth were proud about the teachers they were following, their pride was causing division.

-Because Christians can also be proud of their human wisdom, this can also cause division in the Church.

-Therefore, God and Paul teach us about the wisdom of God and the wisdom of people.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:18-20

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; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20-Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

-According to 1 Corinthians, what are the two types of wisdom?

-The wisdom of God, and the wisdom of people.

-Are the wisdom of God and the wisdom of people the same?

-No.

-They are very different.

-How are the wisdom of God and the wisdom of people different?

-The wisdom of God leads to eternal life, but the wisdom of people leads to eternal death.

-The wisdom of people makes them proud and think that they know better than God.

-Here are some examples:

-Adam and Eve thought that they knew better than God and ate the forbidden fruit, but because of their human wisdom, sin and death came to them and to all people.

-Cain thought that he knew better than God and did not bring a blood sacrifice, but because of his human wisdom, God rejected his sacrifice.

-Those who lived in the time of Noah thought that they knew better than God and did not listen to Noah, but because of their human wisdom, they all drowned.

-The people in Babel thought that they knew better than God and built a tower, but because of their human wisdom, God stopped them and confused their language.

-Joseph's brothers thought they knew better than God and sold Joseph as a slave, but because of their human wisdom, God made Joseph king of them and all of Egypt.

-Pharaoh thought that he knew better than God by making Israel his slaves, but because of his human wisdom, Pharaoh and his army drowned in the Red Sea.

-The Pharisees and Sadducees thought they knew better than God and crucified Christ, but God raised Jesus from the dead to save all who believe.

-The wisdom of people makes them proud and think that they know better than God.

-The wisdom of people makes them proud and think that they do not need God.

-The wisdom of people makes them proud and think that there is no God.

-Has the wisdom of people made the world a better place?

-No.

-The world continues to fight one another.

-What is a reason why people do not believe in God?

-Human wisdom.

-What is a reason why people sin?

-Human wisdom.

-Human wisdom can also cause division in the Church.

-Human wisdom is the primary reason that there is

division in the Church.

-As the verses above teach us, God makes foolish the wisdom of people as well as destroys their wisdom.

-People think that they are wise, but they are foolish.

-People think that God is foolish, but He alone is wise.

-Why is the cross foolishness to those who do not believe in God?

-Because they do not have the wisdom of God.

-For Christians, however, the cross is the power of God.

-How is the cross the power of God?

-While the world and its wisdom could not save people from death, the power of the cross saves all who believe.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:21

21-For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

-Many Jews were proud of their knowledge about God and the Old Testament.

-Yet, while most Jews knew about God, they did not believe in Him

-Like the Jews, many people today are proud of their education and their wisdom.

-Yet, while people today may know about God, they do not believe in Him.

-Here is an illustration:

-A man was sick and went to the doctor.

-The doctor examined the man, discovered his sickness, and gave him the medicine which would heal him.

-The man, however, did not take the medicine, but rather, threw it away.

-Would the man be healed?

-No.

-To know about God cannot save us.

-Even Satan knows about God.

-In order to be saved, we must believe in God.

-From the beginning of the world, there is one only thing that people must do to be saved. What is it?

-To simply believe in the Word of God.

-Today, education and wisdom have become idols in the

lives of people.

-Are education and wisdom enough to help people to believe in God?

-No.

-Can people know God with the wisdom of the world?

-No.

-It is only through that which the world calls foolish that people can know God.

-What is that which the world calls foolish?

-The teaching of the Word of God.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:22-23

22-Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

23-but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.

-Who did Paul say demands "miraculous signs?"

-The Jews.

-Even though Jesus did many miracles, they did not believe that He was the Savior.

-Did the Jews know that God had promised to send a Savior?

-Yes.

-In their human wisdom, what kind of savior were the Jews looking for?

-A physical king who would save them from the Romans.

-In their human wisdom, the Jews thought that Jesus was blaspheming when He taught them about God.

-In their human wisdom, the Jews thought that Jesus' miracles were from Satan.

-In their human wisdom, the Jews thought that if Jesus was the Savior, then He could save himself from dying on the cross.

-Today, there are many people like the Jews.

-In their human wisdom, they think that Jesus was only a good teacher.

-In their human wisdom, they think that Jesus did not resurrect from the dead.

-In their human wisdom, they think that Jesus has nothing to do with them.

-Today, are there people who say that they will believe in God if they see a miracle?

-Yes.

-Will these people truly believe in God if they see a miracle?

-Here is a story in Luke 16 which Jesus told of a rich man and Lazarus:

-The rich man went to hell and was suffering greatly while Lazarus was with Abraham in paradise.

-When the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his brothers about hell, what did Abraham reply?

-Abraham replied that the people on earth have the Word of God, and that they should listen to the Word of God.

-When the rich man told Abraham that if someone from the dead would return to earth to tell them, and then they would repent, what did Abraham reply?

-Abraham replied, "If they do not listen to [the Word of God], they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

-What does the story of the rich man and Lazarus teach us?

-If people will not listen to the Word of God, then no miracle will convince them to believe.

-There are some people who say that they will not believe

in God unless they see a sign.

-When the Pharisees asked for a sign, what did Jesus say?

-Jesus said, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Mt 12:39).

-What did Jesus mean?

-Jesus meant that the only sign that God would give to people for them to believe is the sign of Jonah.

-What is the sign of Jonah?

-Just as Jonah was delivered out of the belly of the whale after three days and three nights, so Jesus would be raised from the belly of the earth after three days and three nights.

-If people will not believe the death and resurrection of Christ, then no other sign will convince them to believe.

-Who did Paul say looks for wisdom?

-The Greeks or the Gentiles.

-Who are these Greeks or Gentiles?

-These are all non-Jews who do not believe in God.

-How do non-Christians look to their own wisdom?

-They think that their own wisdom will save the world from all its problems.

-They think that wise men, good kings, and good governments will fix the problems of the world.

-Because the minds of people are filled with worldly wisdom, they do not want to listen to God’s Word.

-Because the minds of people are filled with worldly wisdom, they have their own ideas about finding peace and where they will go when they die.

-Although the Jews demanded miraculous signs and the Greeks or Gentiles looked for wisdom, what did Paul do?

-Paul taught Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.

-How is Christ crucified a stumbling block to the Jews?

-Because the Jews looked for a physical savior who would come and make them rulers of this physical world.

-How is Christ crucified foolishness to the Gentiles?

-Because Gentiles cannot understand how a man dying on a cross can do anything for anyone.

-Many people in the world think that they have more wisdom than God and His Word.

-Yet, can anyone know God by his own wisdom?

-No.

-God can only be known through His Word.

-It is only by understanding Christ crucified on the cross for our sins that will save people.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

24-But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25-For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

-As 1 Corinthians 1:24 teaches us, Christ is both the power of God as well as the wisdom of God.

-What does the Word of God mean by saying that "the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom?"

-That although people think that what God says and does is foolish, He is wiser than any man could ever think.

-Man's wisdom says that it was foolish for God to allow Jesus' enemies to crucify Him.

-Instead of being foolish, however, it was wiser than man's wisdom because God used Christ's death on the cross to bring eternal life to all who believe.

-What does the Word of God mean by saying that "the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength?"

-That although people think that God is weak, He is far stronger than the strongest man.

-Man's wisdom says that God is weak for allowing people to crucify Christ on the cross.

-Instead of being weak, however, God showed His strength that is stronger than any man's strength by raising Christ from the dead.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

26-Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

27-But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

28-He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are.

-While God and Paul are writing to the Corinthians, they are also writing to all Christians.

-The choices of the world and the choices of God are greatly different.

-The world chooses those of noble birth, yet God chooses the lowly.

-The world chooses the strong, yet God chooses the weak.

-The world chooses the important, yet God chooses those who are not important.

-Who were the disciples whom Jesus chose?

-Most of them were poor fishermen who were not important in the eyes of the world.

-Were Jesus' disciples wise, strong, or important in the eyes of the world?

-No.

-John the Baptist lived in the desert, wore camel skins, ate locusts and wild honey, and had no education nor money.

-Yet, Jesus said that there was no one greater than John the Baptist (Mt 11:11).

-Why does God choose the lowly, the weak, and those who are not important to the world?

-God does this to shame the wise, to shame the strong, and to shame the important.

-Why does God want to shame the wise, the strong, and the important?

-So that these people would not believe in their wisdom, nor their strength, nor their importance, but rather believe in God.

-When people believe in their wisdom, their strength, or their importance, they cannot believe in God.

-Our God wants to save all people, for the Lake of Eternal fire is eternal.

-If you die and go to hell, you will never get out.

-The world praises academic wisdom, physical strength, and worldly riches.

-Yet, that which is infinitely better is spiritual wisdom, spiritual strength, and spiritual riches.

-The world did not think that the disciples of Christ were important, but God used them to save many people from eternal death.

-The Jewish leaders thought that Peter and John were not educated and not important, but God used them to heal a crippled man.

-How can God work in the world if many of His children are not well educated?



- By the power of the Holy Spirit in them.
- God is building His Church, and Satan and people can not stop that work.
- If Christians are not educated, can God use them?
- Yes, if we walk in obedience to Him.
- Does this mean that we should not learn to read and write and improve our education?
- No.
- Education is good, but we must use it to serve God, and not only to make money for ourselves.
- Many Christians have become proud, self-dependent, and self-seeking.
- Why did God choose those who the world considers foolish and unimportant to do His work?
- The proud exalt themselves and think that they could do God's work by their own efforts and abilities.
- Yet, the humble know that they cannot do anything without God's power and they will praise Him for doing His work through them.
- Whether Christians are educated or uneducated, strong or weak, or bold or timid, what has God done for us?

- He has given us the Holy Spirit to be our education, our strength, and our boldness.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 1:29-31

- 29-So that no one may boast before him.
- 30-It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
- 31-Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”
- We Christians have been given the wisdom of God.
- If we believe in Christ, God has taken away the human wisdom of the world, and replaced it with His wisdom.
- This is why Christians who have little education are more wise than people who have much education.
- The wisdom of the world tries to gain everything in this world, and does not think of God and life after death.
- The wisdom of God teaches us that life on earth is very short, and that life without God is no life at all.
- We Christians have also been given the righteousness of God.
- If we believe in Christ, God has taken away the human

righteousness of the world, and replaced it with His righteousness.

-This is why Christians do not need to show anyone that they are perfect because we are not.

-The righteousness of the world tries to show everyone that people are perfect even though they are not.

-The righteousness of God teaches us that our God is all of the perfection we need.

-We Christians have also been given the holiness of God.

-If we believe in Christ, God has taken away the human holiness of the world, and replaced it with His holiness.

-This is why Christians do not need to work hard to show themselves approved by God.

-The holiness of the world tries to show everyone that people are better than sin, or that they have no sin.

-The holiness of God teaches us that God has saved us from sin and the rest of this world.

-We Christians have also been given the redemption of God.

-If we believe in Christ, God has taken away the human redemption of the world, and replaced it with His

redemption.

-This is why Christians do not need to worry about being saved from sin and death.

-The redemption of the world tries to work hard in order to feel good about oneself.

-The redemption of God teaches us that because God has saved us, we can live lives worthy of Him.

-No human being will ever have any reason to boast about himself before God.

-Why should we boast in ourselves when we have done nothing to save ourselves?

-Why should we boast in ourselves when we have done nothing to save others?

-When a Christian does a good work, it is because we are one with Jesus, and the Holy Spirit lives in us.

-This is why the Word of God teaches us: "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

-If we boast in ourselves, we are only hurting ourselves.

-When we boast in God, however, God is glorified and we are blessed.