

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 1:19-31)

1. Can worldly wisdom prevail against God?

No: *"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world"* (**I Corinthians 1:19-20**)?

- **Job 5:12-13, Job 12:17, Isaiah 29:14, and Isaiah 44:25.**

2. Though the world may view preaching as foolishness, what is the purpose of preaching?

To save those who believe: *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"* (**I Corinthians 1:21**).

- You can't, by human wisdom, know or understand God (**Job 37:23, Matthew 11:25, Romans 1:20-22, and Romans 11:33-36**).
- Preaching is necessary for people to be saved (**Mark 16:15-16, Romans 10:14-17, Romans 16:25-26, and Titus 1:1-3**).

3. Were the Jews and the Greeks content with just hearing the word of God?

No, they wanted more: *"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom"* (**I Corinthians 1:22**).

- The Jews wanted signs (**Matthew 12:38-42 and Matthew 16:1-4**).
- The Greeks wanted to apply human wisdom (**Acts 17:16-34**).
- Man has to forsake his own way of thinking to turn to God (**Isaiah 55:6-9; cf. Proverbs 16:25**).

4. What was the difference between the Jews and Greeks that heeded to the call of the Gospel opposed to those who did not?

Those Jews who believed not stumbled at the Gospel and the Greeks saw it as foolishness, while those who believed saw it as the power of God: *"(23) But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; (24) But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God"* (**I Corinthians 1:23-24**).

- Jews stumbled (**Romans 9:31-33**).
- The Greeks saw foolishness (**I Corinthians 2:14**).
- The called (**II Thessalonians 2:14**), don't stumble (**I Peter 2:6-10**).

5. How does the wisdom of men compare to that of God?

Though He's not foolish, His foolishness is/would be greater than our wisdom: *"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men"* (**I Corinthians 1:25**).

- **Ecclesiastes 8:17** and **Daniel 2:20**.
- When man looks to his own wisdom, trouble follows (**Isaiah 47:10**).
- This is exactly why we trust in God's wisdom rather than our own (**Isaiah 5:21**; cf. **II Peter 1:3-4**).

6. Does God value human strength and wisdom above the base things of the world?

Not at all: *"(26) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And 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"* (**I Corinthians 1:26-28**).

- God doesn't favor those who look to the flesh as attributes of their strength (**Psalms 118:8**, **Isaiah 30:1-3**, **II Corinthians 10:4-5**, and **Philippians 3:3**).
- God doesn't need our physical strength or wisdom (**Judges 7:1-25**).
- God has chosen the base things of the world (**Psalms 8:2**, **Isaiah 26:5-6**, **Isaiah 29:19**, **Matthew 21:16**, and **James 2:5**).
- We have to stay grounded (**Luke 17:7-10** and **II Corinthians 12:11**).

7. Does God want us to be glory seekers?

No, and that is why He doesn't value human strength and wisdom: *"That no flesh should glory in his presence"* (**I Corinthians 1:29**).

- **Jeremiah 9:23** and **II Corinthians 4:7**; cf. **Luke 14:11**.

8. In whom do we find wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption?

In Christ, not self: *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"* (**I Corinthians 1:30**).

- In Him (**Galatians 3:26-29**) we find wisdom (**Proverbs 2:6**), righteousness (**Philippians 3:9**), sanctification (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**), and redemption (**Colossians 1:12-14**).

9. Who should we glory in?

The Lord: *"That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord"* (**I Corinthians 1:31**).

- **I Chronicles 16:10**, **Psalms 105:3**, **I Corinthians 10:31**, and **II Corinthians 10:17**.