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Man's Wisdom vs. God's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:17b-31

- 1) The gospel of Jesus Christ concerns salvation from sin on a cross (1:17b)
- 2) Two kinds of people: believers in Christ & unbelievers (1:18-20)
 - a) For unbelievers, the cross of Christ is absolute foolishness
 - b) For believers, the cross of Christ is the power of God
 - i) Power of God will destroy unbelievers
 - ii) Power of God makes worldly wisdom foolishness
- 3) Worldly wisdom and signs are unable to lead us to Christ
- 4) God's ordained way of salvation is absurd to the world: "Christ crucified" (21-28)
 - a) Not for worldly wise but for the "called" of Christ
 - b) God chose foolish things to shame the wise
 - c) God chose the weak things to shame the strong
 - d) God chose the despised things so as to nullify that which is
- 5) God ordained His plan for His glory alone (29)
- 6) Christ, not worldly wisdom, is our only boast (30-31; cf. Jer. 9:23-24)
 - a) Christ is our wisdom—our avenue for salvation
 - b) Christ is our righteousness—our right standing before God (past)
 - c) Christ is our sanctification—our maturity (present)
 - d) Christ is our redemption—our full salvation (future)