

- I) V26-31 INTRO: For you see your calling brethren that **not many wise** according to **REVIEW**
- II) Paul had written For **Jews** request a sign and **Greeks** seek after wisdom
By this he divided **the world** into two groups: **Jew** and **Gentile**
Eph 3:4-6 Paul refers to this as **The mystery of Christ**, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel **the Gentiles** are **heirs together with Israel**, members together of **one body**, and **sharers together** in the promise in Christ Jesus.
- III) The **Church** is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ, both Jew and Gentile
This is what he means in Eph 2:15 when he speaks of **the one new man**
- IV) Both Jew and Gentile are brought into the Body of Christ when they are saved
This means humanity is now Jew, Gentile, and the Church
1 Co 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit **into one body** --whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free --and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
HE MADE IT CLEAR
- V) Before receiving Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are **equally** separated from God
Both reject the Cross in their own way
Jews requested signs, and Greeks sought out wisdom
- VI) To the Jew, supernatural signs was evidence and revealed God's power
They had the OT, and sought to verify claims by supernatural evidence
- VII) For the **Greeks** (Gentiles), **man's** wisdom and eloquence left no place for God
They had no scriptures, so they were left with their philosophical speculation
Each of their systems of philosophy contradicted the other
JEWS SEEK SIGNS, GREEKS SEEK WISDOM
- VIII) V23 But we preach Christ **crucified** (to the Jews a sign of total weakness)
Phil 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming **obedient to death—** even death on a cross!
- IX) In spite of what it appeared His resurrection demonstrated **the power of God**
2 Co 13:4 He was crucified because of **weakness**, yet He lives because of the **power of God**

- I) To the Jew, a crucified Messiah was a stumbling block
Mt 21:42-44 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."
- II) To **the Gentiles** a crucified savior is simply foolishness (moronic)
This had been recently shown when Paul had preached in Athens
- III) When Paul spoke of the resurrection the Greeks rejected the thought
Ac 17:32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked while others said, We will hear you again on this matter
- IV) The wisdom of God was revealed with Jesus crucified to atone for our sin
This was how God would draw men to salvation
Jn 12:32-33 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."
He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.
- V) They thought wisdom was found in elevating man and worshiping idols
In rejecting God's wisdom and elevating man, all that was left for them is idolatry
Ro 1:22-23 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.
- BOTH JEW AND GENTILE REJECTED JESUS**
- VI) V24 But **to those who are called** both Jews and Greeks Christ the **power** of God
Jesus is what both Jews and Greeks require: power and wisdom
HOW ARE THEY CALLED
- VII) Called by the *preaching* of the Cross: It is a call to faith in God through Jesus
Jesus is the *ultimate* sign and wisdom of God
- VIII) V25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God
The message preached of salvation through Jesus is to men, foolish (V21)
It requires conviction of the Spirit and humble repentance to understand it
BEGIN STUDY
- IX) V26 For you see your calling brethren that **not many wise according** to the flesh
Wise according to the flesh (According to the standards of the flesh)

- I) The reality of the Christian faith is that it is not appealing to the self-sufficient Salvation by works is the most common belief that humans possess
HE IS SAYING
- II) All you need to do is look around and you will see this is true
Man centered messages have a way of drawing works-oriented people
NOTICE
- III) V26 Not many philosophers, men of dignity/power, or of nobility (high birth)
These are **the three claims** to social status (education, power, and aristocracy)
HIS POINT
- IV) The Church is not filled with wealthy intellectual nobility
- V) Instead, it is filled with those who recognize their spiritual poverty
Jer 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or **the rich man boast of his riches**, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
- IV) V27 **But God** has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise
The foolish things can refer to things that seem foolish, or even people
- V) God has chosen us, even though to the world we were of no value
By the world's standards, we didn't have a chance **but God** by grace saved us
Eph 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions --it is by grace you have been saved.
- VI) God **searches out** and **restores** those who are rejected, unloved and unwanted
Lu 19:10 The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost
- VII) Lu 15:3-7 He spoke this parable to them, saying: What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'. I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

- I) By selecting those the world doesn't need, God reveals the depth of His wisdom
- II) Foolish: Moros: Godless, impious, foolish
Shame: Disgrace; confound
Weak: Without strength (Unable to save themselves)
- III) V27 He chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise
By choosing us He confounded the wise, revealing their faulty way of thinking
Their works oriented salvation was revealed to be empty and without value
- IV) It is God who saves, and it is God's strength that preserves
Salvation is to give glory to **the God who saves**, not the vessels being saved!
- V) I like to look at cars, and admire them
I don't praise the car, I compliment the builder
- VI) When we are saved it causes those who are wise and strong to wonder!
- VII) V28 The **base things** of the world and the things which are **despised** God has
Base: Literally, no family, low born: Not of noble birth, no family honor
Despised: Contemptible, with no esteem or value, worthless
- VIII) According to the standards of the world, we are not respected and are worthless
God did not establish the standards that the world abides by
Job 34:19 (God) shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor; for they are all the work of His hands
- IX) This is one reason not to look to the world's standards to determine your value
Our value is not determined by what man says, but what God says (mom/sisters)
Ps 139:14 I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are **wonderful**, I know that full well
- X) This is not a reason to think highly of ourselves but instead, to be humbled
Ps 8:3-4 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, **what is man** that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit (care) for him?
WHY HAS HE CHOSEN US
- XI) V28 To bring **to nothing** the things that **are** (considered valuable to the world)

- I) By His grace He has transformed the useless into that which is of value
1 Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.
- II) V29 That no flesh should glory in His presence
The result of all of this is humility because we did not earn salvation
Ro 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of works? No, but on that of faith
- III) Lu 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank You that I am not as other men are; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you; this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.
- IV) V30 But **of Him** you are in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God
This is what God has provided for you in Jesus
- V) Wisdom: That flows from God Himself and gives you insight into divine things
Righteousness: Resulting from being justified and removing condemnation
Sanctification: Set apart for God and made holy by the cleansing of His blood
Redemption: He paid the price to set us free from the power of Satan, and sin
- VI) V31 as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the Lord
The only boasting we can ever partake in is that we have been saved
- VII) We only boast in the One who loved us, and gave Himself for us
Ps 44:8 In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise Your name forever.

Uncle Louie