



“ADVENTure: ...Unusual...”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sunday | November 25th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Romans 1:18-32

DISCUSS

1. Why are we so moved by “underdog” stories? What’s your favorite “underdog” story? (Optional: As a group, identify the gospel themes in the stories mentioned)
2. One scholar suggests that when the church experiences times of prosperity, the *“natural tendency [is] to play down the challenge of the gospel and over-emphasize its comfort.”*¹ Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? If so, where have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Read 1 Cor. 1:18-31 and discuss. What is Paul’s primary point? Why is it important (see vs. 19) that God “destroy the wisdom of the wise”? Why did God choose the foolish things (i.e. “unusual”)?

¹Craig Blomberg, *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 Corinthians*(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), p. 23.

4. Read Romans 1:18-32 and discuss. Author Gordon Fee wrote the following, *“Left to themselves mere creatures cannot find out the living God. The best that they can do is to create gods in the likeness of created things, or, as so often happens, in their own distorted likeness.”*² Looking back to last week, how does this connect with Genesis 3 and mankind’s fall into sin?

5. Of the two basic human idolatries (seeking miraculous signs and seeking human wisdom) are you the most prone towards? How does “the word of the cross” (i.e. the gospel) keep you?

6. Pastor Patrick shared different cultural counterfeit versions of “Jesus.” What different version of Jesus have you had over the years (assuming you had one)? How did the gospel expose the counterfeit?

7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

Notes:

²Gordon Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: 1 Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987), p. 72.