

CHRIST: GOD'S WISDOM AND POWER!

1 Cor 1.18-31 - <sup>18</sup> For

'FOR'

Because. In view of the fact that...  
connecting With the discussion about  
DIVISIONS

the message of THE CROSS is foolishness to those who are perishing,

FOOLISHNESS:

Absurdity. Dullness.  
Stupidity and silliness.  
'Moronic'. Nonsense.

but to us who are BEING SAVED it is the power of God.

DUNAMIS

ABILITY. Efficacy.  
The ABILITY to perform.  
The ABILITY to accomplish.  
Miraculous works and activities.

<sup>19</sup> For it is written:

"I WILL DESTROY the WISDOM of the WISE, [?????]

And bring to nothing the UNDERSTANDING of the PRUDENT."

You can put the words 'wise' ...  
'understanding' ... and 'prudent'  
Each inside APOSTROPHES:

THE ARE CALLED THAT...  
In man's world

BUT AREN'T THAT...  
In God's world!

SAYING:  
IT'S JUST... NOT... TRUE!

This division... will make apparent...  
What's counterfeit  
And what's real!

"HERE'S WHAT YOU CALL WISDOM!  
AND HERE'S TRUE WISDOM!  
*See the difference?"*

Wisdom, understanding and prudence...  
AS DEFINED BY THE WORLD...  
"I... WILL... DESTROY!"

<sup>20</sup> Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer OF THIS AGE? Has not God made foolish the wisdom OF THIS WORLD?

The wisdom OF THIS WORLD ... actually...  
NEVER WAS wise!  
It ALWAYS WAS... foolish!

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God,

WISDOM OF GOD  
Spiritual mind  
comprehending spiritual wisdom.

the world through wisdom

WORLD THROUGH WISDOM  
Through worldly wisdom

did not know God,

KNOW GOD  
Spiritual knowledge

it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

FOOLISHNESS OF THE MESSAGE  
IS HE REALLY SAYING  
THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS  
IS FOOLISH?  
*NO!*  
*This is the*  
*That's the 'Flesh's evaluation'*  
*Of a TRULY BRILLIANT,*  
*MASTERFUL*  
*spiritual message*

<sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign,

Pursuing spiritual power  
from a natural position

and Greeks seek after wisdom;

Pursuing spiritual wisdom  
from a natural mind

WISDOM:  
KNOWING WHAT TO DO  
AND HOW TO DO IT.

POWER:  
THE ABILITY TO GET IT DONE!

WISDOM AND POWER *COMBINED*  
CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING  
SPIRITUAL... OR NATURAL!

SO JEWS AND GREEKS...  
THE RELIGIOUS MIND ...AND ...THE SECULAR...  
*CHASE AFTER THESE TWO THINGS.*

<sup>23</sup> but we preach CHRIST CRUCIFIED,  
to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

JEWS AND GREEKS  
*WHILE IN THE FLESH...*  
*IN THEIR NATURAL ABILITIES*  
*WITHOUT THE SPIRIT'S ASSISTANCE...*

HAVE NO ACCESS TO IT!

JEWS: Trip over it!  
GREEKS: Can't even recognize it!

<sup>24</sup> but to THOSE WHO ARE CALLED, both Jews and Greeks, CHRIST the power of God and the wisdom of God.

AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING...  
*IS A PERSON!*

WHAT AND HOW  
DO WE RECEIVE?????

*CHRIST IS...  
THE WISDOM  
AND POWER  
OF GOD!*

*KNOW... HIM... BETTER*

WISDOM... COMES TO US!  
IDEAS FILL OUR HEART AND HEAD.

AND POWER... COMES TO US!  
WE FIND THAT  
WE CAN BE WHAT WE COULD NEVER BE BEFORE.  
WE CAN DO WHAT WE COULD NEVER DO BEFORE.  
WE CAN STOP DOING  
WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO STOP DOING!

WHEN DO THESE COME?  
WHEN WE KNOW... JESUS... *BETTER!!!*

CHRIST!  
*THE POWER  
OF GOD  
AND THE WISDOM  
OF GOD!*

*I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I*  
Am the way!  
*I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I*  
Am the truth!  
*I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I*  
Am the life!

WE NEED TO SEEK CHRIST...  
AS IF OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!  
*BECAUSE THEY REALLY DO!*

MORE THAN WE KNOW...  
ALL THE CHRISTIANITY WE'RE TRYING TO LIVE...  
*IS CHRIST-DEPENDENT!*

OUR WINDOW... OR PORTAL

OF RECEPTIVITY  
ENLARGES OR SHRINKS...

ACCORDING TO  
OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
OUR FELLOWSHIP...  
*WITH HIM!*

<sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God

God's wisdom is called foolish here...

*But is it?*

Or...

It looks foolish...

*TO THE*

'WISE'!

is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

And ...

IS GOD WEAK?

Or...

he LOOKS weak

to the flesh...

<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

Because the flesh sees God as  
Weak and foolish... *is he?*

No! He just looks that way...  
To fleshy people!!!

And because the flesh  
Doesn't see spiritual people  
As wise, mighty or noble...  
*Does it mean they're not?*

<sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world

Foolish things...

OF THE WORLD!

As the world sees and defines foolishness!

BUT ARE THEY FOOLISH?

OR...

ARE THEY ... WISE

*ACCORDING TO SPIRITUAL REALITIES?*

ON SPIRITUAL TERMS?

FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE?

YES!

WISE!

*TRULY WISE!*

to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

AND THE TRULY WISE...

WILL SHAME...

THE 'FALSE-WISE'!

THE WISE BY  
'LYING' STANDARDS!

WILL MAKE THEM BLUSH!  
EXPOSE THE TRUTH  
THAT THEIR HONOR AND DIGNITY...  
ARE NOT REAL!

That it's all been...  
A LIE!

What's he correcting?  
MIND-SETS THAT ARE  
WORLDLY AND FLESH-BASED  
IN THE CHURCH!

To show the truth about...  
What's really from God  
*And what's not!*

He's going to take  
REAL spirituality in the church...  
REAL WISDOM AND  
REAL POWER...

That are VASTLY SUPERIOR TO...  
FALSE spirituality...  
And FALSE power

And he's going to  
*SHAME THE FLESH-DECEPTION DOWN...*

*That enslaves the church  
To a false reality!*

AND GOD'S SAYING:  
*"I'M GOING TO FREE MY PEOPLE  
SO THEY CAN GO ON  
AND EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF  
THE TRUE SPIRITUAL REALM...  
IN TRUE WISDOM  
AND TRUE POWER!"*

*NO MORE EARTHLY STUFF!!!  
SOMEBODY SAYS: "See Pastor Joe!  
He's so spiritual!  
Wow! Look!  
He's got God's wisdom and power!"*  
And you look at their hero...  
Their champion in the faith...  
And he's dripping with flesh...  
And wreaks with error!

AND YOUR AGHAST!  
HOW CAN THEY SEE THIS...

*AND I SEE THAT?*  
Are they crazy? Or... *AM I?*  
And the same is happening  
In our country today!

One course is  
being worshiped  
as humanity's salvation...

And you look to see  
what's being worshiped???

And it wrecks with flesh and error!  
*"CAN'T YOU SEE THAT??!!"*

<sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised GOD HAS CHOSEN, AND THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT, TO BRING TO NOTHING the *things that are*,

GOD  
WILL DO IT...  
*THROUGH*  
THOSE WHO APPEAR  
TO BE NOTHING!!

HE USES  
the REAL wise to destroy  
The FALSE wise!

The REAL strong to overpower  
The FALSE strong!

The REAL somebodies  
To make nothing of the  
FALSE somebodies!

*WHY??!!*

<sup>29</sup> THAT *NO FLESH* SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE!!!

<sup>30</sup> But OF HIM YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS,  
WHO BECAME FOR US WISDOM from God—

*CHRIST HAS BECOME*  
*FOR US:*  
WISDOM:  
WE SEE FROM GOD'S VIEW POINT!

and RIGHTEOUSNESS

RIGHTEOUSNESS:  
WE'RE AT PEACE WITH GOD!

and SANCTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION:  
WE'RE PULLED OUT OF THE CROWD  
AND SEPARATED TO GOD AND HIS PURPOSE!

and REDEMPTION—

REDEMPTION:  
OUR SOULS AND BODIES RECEIVE  
WHAT OUR SPIRITS ALREADY CONTAIN!

<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

WHEN IT’S ALL OVER...  
*THIS IS THE SONG WE’LL SING:*  
*“JESUS*  
*DID IT ALL!”*

RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST...  
IS THE GREAT MOTHERLODE!

WHEN WE LOOK PAST OUR NEED...  
AND FIX OUR EYES ON CHRIST ALONE...  
WE’VE JUST BECOME  
THE RICHEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!

FELLOWSHIPING WITH CHRIST...  
GIVES... US... *EVERYTHING!!!*

Ez 16.6 - <sup>6</sup>“And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!

Ez 16.11-12 - <sup>11</sup>I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. <sup>12</sup>And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

Ez 16.14-15 - <sup>14</sup>Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it *was* perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord God. <sup>15</sup>“But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who *would have* it.

Christ’s competition?  
THE WORLD! MONEY!  
EASY TO SEE!

Gifts, graces and blessings  
can become our focus and our desire.  
The BEST of things!!

*IS IT CHRIST...  
OR IS IT CHRISTIANITY  
THAT OWNS OUR PASSION  
AND INFLAMES OUR HEARTS??*

Christianity...  
Living the Christian life...  
Can become *so absorbing... so occupying...*  
That we can play the harlot...  
AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT!

PAUL:  
“FOR ME TO LIVE... IS...  
*CHRIST!!!”*

IDOLATRY

Fills the Bible!  
I'VE WONDERED...  
WHY?  
Just for those times?

Any GOOD thing  
*Even coming from God...*  
That competes with Jesus  
for my affections  
passions and desires...is  
*IDOLATRY!*

Where is  
Jesus on the  
passion-meter of my heart?

Do any of the BEST things  
That even come FROM him...  
*Replace him?*

IF SO?  
I've become  
*IDOLATROUS!*

ANY DESTINY... CALLING...  
MINISTRY... OR CAUSE!  
EVEN THE *BEST* OF THEM!

[EVEN THOSE  
GOD MIGHT HAVE SENT TO US WITH  
PROPHECY AND A GREAT POWER ENCOUNTERS!]

Any part of our Christianity  
That doesn't flow OUT OF  
Relationship with Him...  
Isn't sustained BY relationship with him...  
Leading TO MORE relationship with Him...  
*ISN'T REAL.*  
*IT'S AN IDOL!*

IF IT'S NOT GOD-MADE...  
*THEN IT'S MAN-MADE!*

TO A WOMAN ON THE STREET:  
*"Ma'am!*  
*That doll you're carrying?*  
*It's not really a baby.*  
*It's a doll!"*

GOD: *"Hey guys!*  
*That's a dead block of wood*  
*You're worshipping there!*  
*And you think it's me!*  
*BUT IT'S NOT!"*



Our Christianity started with...  
And must continue to flow out of...  
CHRIST HIMSELF!

.....Very few things  
give me as much  
hope and encouragement  
in all this as...  
THE LAODICEAN CHURCH!  
*Flesh-based... carnal...  
Lukewarm... tepid...*

GOD LOVED THEM...  
BUT THEY STILL TRIGGERED  
*GOD'S GAG-REFLEX!*  
They were people  
who had Jesus inside...  
*But loved everything else  
more than Him!*

Rev 3.20 - <sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and DINE with him, and he with Me.

Planted inside of each of us...  
Permanently based IN OUR CORE...  
Is THE relationship instigator  
Motivator... navigator... and culminator!

He was planted inside of us  
For this one, primary reason:  
To be our relationship  
Educator... applicator...  
And tour guide!

REVEALING JESUS!  
That's the Holy Spirit's  
#1 mission!

We're all  
LAODECIAN CHRISTIANS  
In our flesh!

To walk consistently  
in Harmony with God is  
*IM---POSSIBLE...*  
for any one of us!

But here's the secret  
To it all!!

It's that knock!  
*[Knock knock]*  
That voice on the inside!  
We recognize it... *[we hear his voice]*  
And we respond to it... *[we open the door]*

*[Knock knock]*

And again.

*[Knock knock]*

And again.

*[Knock knock]*

It doesn't take a closet! An hour!

It takes

*RECOGNITION... [hear]*

*AND RESPONSE... [open]!*

Maybe we look up a scripture.

Maybe we pray in the Spirit.

Maybe we sing a little song.

Maybe we just look up... *and smile!*

And every single response

Takes us a little step closer

To knowing Jesus

*better...*

*And better...*

*and better!*

AND WHENEVER

WE RESPOND

*TO ANYTHING INITIATED BY*

THE HOLY SPIRIT...

*POWER COMES*

*TO*

*ENABLE US*

*TO DO SO!!*

IT'S HIS WORK! *[not ours]*

HIS POWER! *[not ours]*

IT'S OUR ... *RECOGNITION!*

OUR... *RESPONSE!*

AND RELATIONSHIP... GROWS...

*AND IN THAT RELATIONSHIP...*

TO OUR SURPRISE...

WE FIND OURSELVES

BECOMING

FILLED

WITH

WISDOM...

AND POWER

*THAT WE WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR!*

FREED FROM THE FAKE, FALSE  
WISDOM AND POWER OF THE FLESH...

BECAUSE THE JEWS AND GREEKS  
COULDN'T FIND THE GENUINE...  
*FOR ALL THEIR SEARCHING...*

BUT WE'VE FOUND  
WHAT WE WERE SEARCHING FOR:

JESUS  
HIMSELF...

WHO IS  
HIMSELF...

IN  
HIMSELF...

ALL BY  
HIMSELF...

*GOD'S WISDOM  
AND GOD'S POWER!*