

God's Wisdom in Salvation

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 – Adult Group Leader Handout

Bible Passage

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased, through the foolishness of the message preached, to save those who believe.”

Discussion Questions

I. The Power of God for Destruction (vv. 19-20)

- a. In Isaiah 29:13-14, the Lord connects false, hypocritical worship with earthly wisdom and discernment. Why is that? What tempts us to worship God however we want? What can these verses teach us about God-honoring worship?
- b. What are some tell-tale signs of worldly wisdom? How can we differentiate bad worldly wisdom from good human reason? How can we be holy and wise?
- c. Worldly wisdom is often exposed during crises and decisions (e.g., the Assyrian invasion of Judah, the Jews deciding to execute Jesus, leaders responding to COVID). How can we prepare to make godly decisions under pressure?

II. The Power of God for Salvation (v. 21)

- a. What is the difference between knowing God and knowing about God?
- b. What are the dangers of incorrectly assuming things about people? How does God's self-revelation in Scripture help us worship and serve Him?
- c. How should we respond to the privilege of knowing God? Since God is pleased to reveal Himself through preaching, how should this affect the way we listen?
- d. It is encouraging that God is pleased to save and to fill up the cross of Christ. Based on vv. 17 and 21, what can we do to follow our Father's example?
- e. Why does worldly wisdom cause strife? How does heavenly wisdom bring peace? **How can we wean ourselves off worldly wisdom during conflict?**

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God would help us to worship without hypocrisy
- Pray for heavenly wisdom to make wise decisions
- Pray for diligence and eagerness when we listen to preaching
- Pray for obedient hearts that would submit to Scripture during conflict