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1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 19 As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.” 20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. 21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. 22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. 24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. 26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. 30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.”

1. **THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)**
   1. The message of the cross, though considered foolishness by some, reveals God's wisdom and power in the salvation of humanity through Christ's sacrificial death.
   2. Why is the message of the cross considered foolishness to some?
   3. How is God's wisdom demonstrated through the seemingly foolish act of Christ's crucifixion?
   4. How does human wisdom often fall short in understanding God's ways?

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1. **GOD'S CHOICE OF THE WEAK AND FOOLISH (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)**
   1. God deliberately chooses the weak and foolish to showcase His sovereignty, challenging worldly standards and emphasizing reliance on His grace rather than human strength.
   2. Why does God choose the weak and foolish things of the world?
   3. How do God's choices challenge human expectations and standards?
   4. What are the implications of God's choice for believers in their own lives and communities?

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1. **BOASTING IN THE LORD (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)**
   1. By boasting in the Lord, believers shift their focus from self-promotion to acknowledging God's supremacy.
   2. Why is boasting in the Lord emphasized?
   3. How does recognizing God's wisdom and power lead to humility and dependence on Him?
   4. How does boasting in the Lord shape our identity and priorities as believers?

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