

Foolishness Of God

Scripture Reading:
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The foolishness of God is
wiser than men, so what is
the wisdom of God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ **Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Men to learn from

- Several men throughout history have been markedly blessed with wisdom from God.
- Example of their wisdom / "credentials"
- What did they use their wisdom for?
- What was important to them?

Daniel

Daniel

- Daniel 1:1-7
- Taken prisoner from Jerusalem
- Selected for service:
 - ⁴ youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every *branch of* wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and *he ordered him* to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

Daniel

- Daniel 1:8-16 ⁸ But Daniel **made up his mind** that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank;
 - Tested
- ¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every *branch of* literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all *kinds of* visions and dreams.
- Daniel 1:18-21 Found to be "ten times better"

Daniel

- Daniel 2:1-18
 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream / Daniels faith
 - ²⁸ However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed.
- Daniel 3 – Worship of the golden image refused by Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego
 - Daniel 3:13-18 "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter."

Solomon

Solomon

- Solomon was about 20 when he became king.
- Before:
 - "Woe to you Oh Land, whose king is but a boy!"
 - "what has God done to us to give us such a king? How long will we have to suffer with such foolish judgments?"
- (Apocrypha history)

Solomon

- 1 Kings 3:16-28
- After:
 - All of Israel heard the judgment that the King had judged. They had great awe for the King, for they saw that the wisdom of God was within him to do justice. [I Melachim 3:16 – 27 (Apocrypha history)]

Solomon

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-9
 - We live, we die, and life goes on ...
 - "Vanity of vanities"
- Ecclesiastes 12:9-14
 - 9 And further, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he pondered, and sought out, [and] set in order many proverbs. 10 The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written uprightly, [even] words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are as goads; and as nails well fastened are [the words of] the masters of assemblies, [which] are given from one shepherd. 12 And furthermore, my son, be admonished; of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 [This is] the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Jesus

Jesus

- Matthew 21:23-27 – By heaven or by men?
 - Only 2 options – Heaven, Men
 - Asked a question they knew with the same answer
 - By Heaven: "Then why did you not believe him?"
 - John proclaimed Him: Matthew 3:14
 - By Men: "we fear the people"
 - It was a game / power struggle. No discussion on the true answer.
 - Just as Solomon made the two women show their true colors by their response, Jesus did with the chief priests and elders – "We do not know" as a child though they were the teachers and leaders
- He answered the question again:
 - Matthew 21:28-32 – For John came to you in the way of righteousness ...

Jesus

- Matthew 13
 - **Hidden Treasure**
 - 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
 - **A Costly Pearl**
 - 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- Matthew 22:36-40
 - 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The World

The world's wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 3:18-20
 - ¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is **wise in this age**, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the **wisdom of this world** is foolishness before God. For it is written, "*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*"; ²⁰ and again, "*THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.*"
- God's wisdom contrasted to the wisdom of this world
 - God's wisdom seeks spiritual things
 - Man's wisdom seeks earthly things
- This world is not about this world

This world is a "race"

- 1 Corinthians 9:23-27
 - ²³ I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
- The stakes are too high to run "for the race," we must run to win.**

A race

Salvation	Race	
Hear	Hear about the race	Romans 10:14
Believe	Believe that there is a prize and that if you win it will be yours.	John 20:31
Repent	Decide to run.	Luke 13:3
Confess		Romans 10:9-10
Baptism	Enter the race	1 Peter 3:21
Walk	Run!	2 John 9