



Wisdom and Foolishness

I Corinthians 17-31

NIV

Berean Class



If the Gospel is True?

Why don't our scientists and sages tell us, just as they explain the wonders of the atom, the stars, the cell?

Why can't it be proved experimentally and objectively, like other truth about our world?

("Do not put the Lord your God to the test...")



Paul Explains Why

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom
and eloquence,

Why not?



lest the cross of Christ be emptied
of its power.



18 The Message 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; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."



20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher 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 know him, God was pleased through the *foolishness* of what was preached to save those who believe.



Explanation

²²Jews

Greeks

Demand signs

Look for wisdom

 **But We Preach Christ Crucified**

Jews

Gentiles

Stumbling block

Foolishness



²⁴But To Those Whom
God Has Called, Christ is

Jews

Greeks

the power of God,

the wisdom of God,

²⁵*whose weakness*

²⁵*whose foolishness*

is stronger than

is wiser than

human strength

human wisdom

✝ Why Did God Do It That Way?

1. To Be Fair

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called.



1a. Not many of you were wise by human standards. (So if we came to Christ by wisdom, it wouldn't be fair.)

1b. Not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. (So if we came by power, it wouldn't be fair.)



2. God Chose

²⁷The *weak* things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁷The *foolish* things of the world to shame the wise.

²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify things that are,



29 So that no one may
boast before him!



30 It is because of him that you are in
Christ Jesus, who has become for us
***wisdom* from God—that is, our**
righteousness, holiness and redemption.



31 Therefore, as it is written,
“Let the one who boasts
boast in the Lord.”