

The Power and Wisdom of God
1 Cor. 1:18-31

*“Let every pulpit rightly say, **“we preach Christ crucified!”** A strong church once inscribed these words on an archway leading to the churchyard. Over time, two things happened: the church lost its passion for Jesus and His gospel, and ivy began to grow on the archway. The growth of the ivy, covering the message, showed the spiritual decline. Originally it said strongly, **we preach Christ crucified**. But as the ivy grew, one could only read **we preach Christ**, and the church also started preaching “Jesus the Great Man” and “Jesus the Moral Example” instead of Christ crucified. The ivy kept growing, and one could soon only read, **we preach**. The church also had even lost Jesus in the message, preaching religious platitudes and social graces. Finally, one could only read **we**, and the church also just became another social gathering place, all about we and not about God.”* Guzik

- I. There are two types of wisdom: wisdom from this world and wisdom from God. The one is greatly distinguished from the other. The one is limited in scope the other isn't. The one is natural the other is supernatural. The type of wisdom we possess is strictly determined by our view of the message of the cross. If it is foolishness to someone, then they possess a wisdom that is limited, natural and without any eternal value when it comes to the soul. For those who have been called and believe its message, the wisdom they possess is eternal, supernatural and powerful.

1 Cor. 1:18-25

2 Cor. 4:4

James 3:13-18

Isa. 29:14

Prov. 14:12

***Isaiah 55:8-9** For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, say the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

- II. Fortunately, our salvation did not depend on whether we possessed enough worldly wisdom and intellect to grasp the “deeper meaning” of the gospel message. What matters is that he chose us and opened our hearts and minds to his wisdom through Christ Jesus. We have no grounds for pride or boasting about ourselves. If we feel that we do, then we fail to grasp the magnitude of what the power of God has done for us.

1 Cor. 1:26-31

Heb. 10:10

“It [imputed righteousness] means somehow God is able to take hold of a life that is twisted and broken, sinful and defeated, immoral and down-and-out, and to make it conform to the standard of His Son. He is able to take a crooked life and make it straight; He is able to make a broken life whole. The life that is marred, sinful, impure, unholy, by the miracle of His grace He can remake it into the image of Christ.” Redpath

Isaiah 9:23-24 ²³ Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.