

Lent Devotion for Monday, April 3

# 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

## BOAST IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED

*“In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption...”*

The proclamation of the world centers on the wisdom of competency, which is an expectation inherent to every level of society. Yet, in these verses, Paul essentially declares humanity to be wholly incompetent, so much so that he contends that humanity is incapable of distinguishing between what is truly wisdom and that which is utter folly. This assertion is easy to defend oneself against until Paul reasserts God’s order of wisdom—for the proclamation of God centers on the wisdom of Christ crucified.

The crux of this wisdom is so far from the common championing of competency that it seems like pure foolishness to humanity. A crucified Christ is the ultimate contradiction because human wisdom dictates that One may have a Messiah, or one may have a crucifixion; but one may not have both.

And yet, in keeping with Paul’s proclamation that “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom” (v. 25), Scripture uniformly declares that God has chosen to proclaim Christ crucified as God’s wisdom and power for salvation. Moreover, precisely because this proclamation stands in such stark contrast to human wisdom, Paul declares that it is only for “those who believe,” for those who will wholly trust and only boast in the God of the cross (v. 21).

Thus, God’s propensity for the cross leaves humanity with a dire decision: to trust God and be saved by his wise folly or keep up our pretensions and perish. While the latter may bring temporary gains, only the former accomplishes that which all of humanity is incompetent to do, that is, to bring oneself into eternal fellowship with Christ the Lord. Therefore, whereas boasting connotes, “to put one’s full confidence in,” “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord” (v. 31).

*Lord Jesus, help me today to wholly trust and only boast in your wisdom, which is the power of Christ crucified.  
Amen.*