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# CALLED OUT

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

“The Message, Wisdom, & Power of the Cross”  
by Pastor Steve Durand



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# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>18</sup> For 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.

# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

## 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>20</sup> 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?

## 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>21</sup> 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.



# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block  
to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,



# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

## 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.



## 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>30</sup> 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.

# 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, 28-31

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written:

“Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

## 1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16

<sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.



## 1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16

<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

## **1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16**

<sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

## **1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16**

<sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.



## 1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16

<sup>9</sup> However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—

# 1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16

<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us  
by his Spirit.

## **1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16**

<sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness,



# **1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16**

and cannot understand them  
because they are discerned  
only through the Spirit.

## 1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16

<sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

## **1 Corinthians 2:4-10a, 14-16**

<sup>16</sup> for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.





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## 1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize,  
but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom  
and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ  
be emptied of its power.



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# A dangerous possibility

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Why many do *not* believe:





Why many do ***not*** believe:

God chose an unacceptable message.



Why many do ***not*** believe:

God chose an unacceptable message.

God chose an unreasonable method.



Why many do *not* believe:

God chose an unacceptable message.

God chose an unreasonable method.

The message comes to unlikely recipients.







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## 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

## 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.



## 1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.



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# Why some *do* believe

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# 1 Corinthians 2:10a

these are the things God has revealed to us  
by his Spirit.

## 1 Corinthians 2:7

No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

## 1 Corinthians 2:9

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him





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# Why God planned it this way

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# 1 Corinthians 1:29

so that no one may boast before him.





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# GALLED OUT

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