

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. Suggested themes in the text are provided in the box on the left. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

The command
The situation

The act of God
The motivations

The result
The blessing

The reason

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers:

not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong;

²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not,
to bring to nothing things that are,

²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,
who became to us wisdom from God,

righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

³¹ so that, as it is written,

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

1. What is the only command in the paragraph?

2. What does Paul want them to consider?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

- a. What does he mean by 'consider your calling'?
 - b. Look back over all of 1 Corinthians 1. What have they already learned about their calling?
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- 3. What verb describes God's action in verses 27-28?
 - 4. What words in verses 27-28 describe the effects of God's action?
 - 5. According to verse 29, what is God's purpose in choosing and shaming?
 - 6. According to verse 30, what is the result for those who have been chosen and called?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 again.

- 7. Summarize this week's passage in one sentence.

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

- a. Note that verse 26 begins with 'For'. That links it back as support for what has already been written. Think back on last week's lesson and the sermon and summarize verses 18-25 in one sentence.

- b. How do verses 26-31 build on and support verses 18-25?

8. Remember that one of Paul's key themes in the letter is the Corinthians' arrogance. How should verses 18-25 and 26-31 push the Corinthian Christians towards humility?

9. How does the world evaluate and determine who is wise or powerful or well-born?

- a. How is God's evaluation of people different?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

10. Does this passage mean that none of the Corinthian Christians were impressive by worldly standards? Explain.

11. So then, what is Paul's point as it relates to a person's status and God's choosing? (see Romans 9:15-16; Titus 3:4-6)

➤ Making Connections:

12. What stories from the Bible can you think of that demonstrate "God [choosing] what is foolish in the world to shame the wise ... weak ..."?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 again.

13. Why would God want to shame anyone?

14. Why is God so opposed to boasting?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

15. In what ways were you shamed when God called you?

16. How does such shaming lead to the right kind of boasting?

17. How does it feel to be associated with what is foolish and weak and low? And why are you inclined to feel that way?

18. What are some ways that people wrongly try to 'boast in the presence of God' (verse 29)?

19. What does it mean to 'boast in the Lord'?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
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20. Briefly describe how Jesus is wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption to us.
(What references to these words/concepts in 1 Cor 1 help you answer? What other Scriptures help you answer?)

21. What effect did Paul want to this paragraph to have on the Corinthians?

22. How has studying this passage this week affected you?

23. How will this passage impact the way you share the gospel?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would see the wisdom and power of God in the plan of redemption and that we would boast only in our glorious Lord.