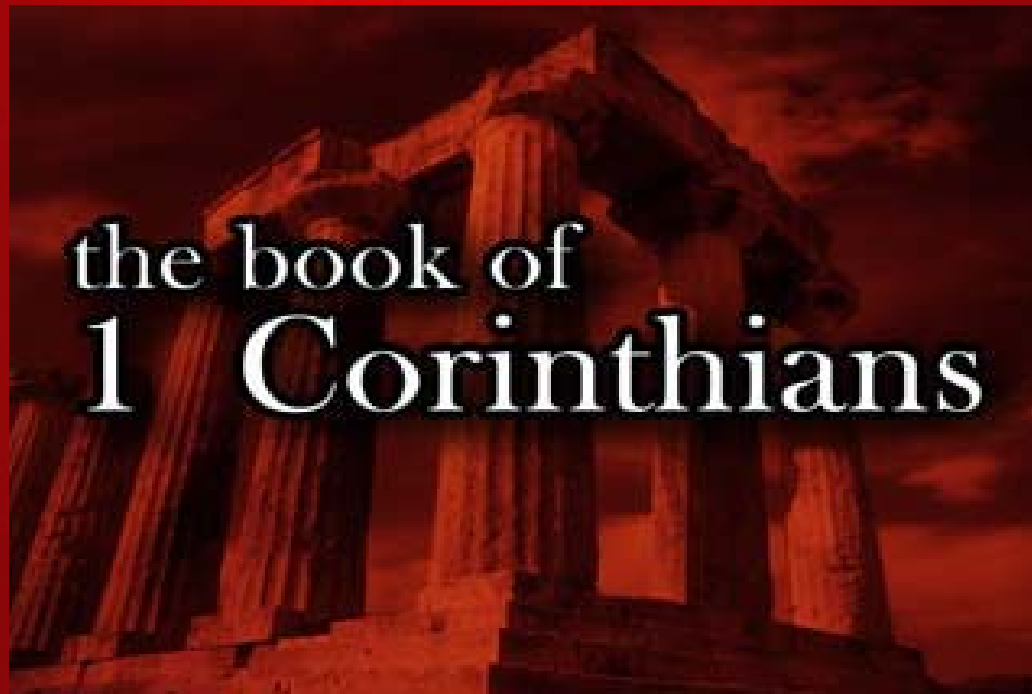


***Good Morning***

*and*

***Welcome to Genesis the Church!***

***This Morning We Continue our Journey in***



*The Text:*

***1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5!***

*The Title:*

***God's Wisdom -vs- Man's Foolishness!***

*The Theme:*

***The Sin of Self-Centeredness Brings  
Shame Upon the Name of Our Savior!***

# **The Setting is the City of Corinth!**

**Strategically located in the center of Roman world.**

**It was the center of commerce, banking, entertainment and trade. It was the vacation spot for the rich and famous.**

**Its streets were constantly filled, day and night, with soldiers, sailors, merchants, and travelers, all looking for a good time.**

# The Setting!

**Corinth was known for its sin and immorality.**

**Yet, God will lead His apostle to this city to establish a church for His glory. It will be from this city that the message of the gospel will be sent to the ends of the civilized world!**



# The Setting!

After a year and a half Paul will sail to Ephesus with Aquila and Priscilla to establish another church. During his time in Ephesus, he will be visited by Chloe's people and later by an official delegation sent from the elders of the church.

The epistle of I Corinthians is Paul's reaction and response to the many problems now taking place in the church of Corinth in his absence.

# ***Let's Get Familiar With Today's Text!***

***Let's Read I Corinthians 1:18-2:5!***



# Our Journey in the Book! Two Weeks Ago:

## *Paul's Opening Address!*

I. (1:1) The **RESPONSE** of the Apostle.

II. (1:2-3) The **RECIPIENTS** of the Letter.

III. (1:4-9) The **RECOGNITION** of God's  
*Faithfulness.*

# Last Week:

## *Paul's Call for Unity!*

I. (1:10) The Apostle's PLEA.

II. (1:11-12) The Corinthian's PROBLEM.

III. (1:13-16) The Apostle's PRINCIPLE.

IV. (1:17) The Corinthian's PURPOSE.



# This Week:

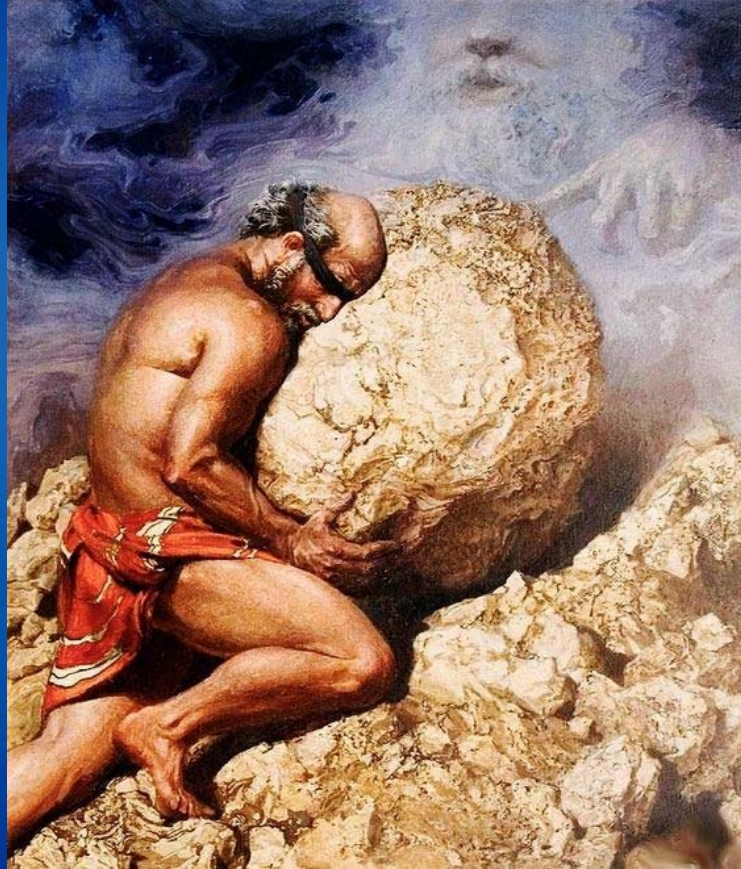
## ***The Wisdom of God & Foolishness of Man!***

***Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Greater  
Than the Wisdom of Men:***

- I. (1:18) The Wisdom of God is PRECIOUS.***
- II. (1:19-20) The Wisdom of God is PERMANENT.***
- III. (1:21-25) The Wisdom of God is POWERFUL.***
- IV. (1:26-28) The Wisdom of God is PARADOXICAL.***
- V. (1:29-31) The Wisdom of God is PURPOSEFUL.***
- VI. (2:1-5) The Wisdom of God is PERSUASIVE.***

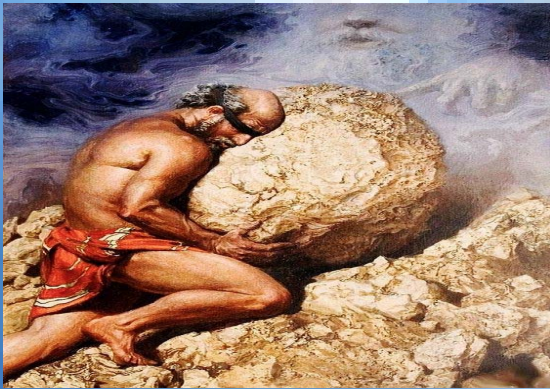
# ***The Greek King of Corinth!***

Sisyphus was thought to be the Wisest of Men on Earth



# *The Story's Application*

It is in the story of the wise Greek King Sisyphus that we are given insight into the differences between the gods of men and this temporal world, and the one true God of the believer and the eternal world that is yet to come.



# ***The Story's Application***

**The gods of mortal man are like the men who worship them. They are crafty, corrupt, evil, and untrustworthy. The reason? They are self-serving. Thus, when a person trusts in the gods of men, he finds himself forever trapped and tricked, left without hope.**



# ***The Story's Application***

**This morning we will discover that the Christian's God, the God of the Bible, is trustworthy, gracious, and merciful. Thus, the believer is able to face the future knowing that he is forever at peace with God. This morning Paul exhorts us by giving us **SIX REASONS** to press on!**



# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

## *I. (1:18) The Wisdom of God is PRECIOUS!*

*Paul begins his teaching by means of contrast. His goal is to remind his readers of the preciousness of the gospel message (remember the context / his focus is on their failure). It is in the cross of Christ (viewed by men as foolishness) that salvation is gained – the weakness of mankind has now been overcome by the power of God evidenced in Christ's sacrifice – I Corinthians 15!*

**The Wisdom of God is PRECIOUS!**

**To the Unsaved the Gospel is Foolishness!**

**1. Their Reasoning – Grk. Moria / Eng. Moron.**

***Because I would not be willing to do this,  
why would a God?***

***Their mistake is that they build on the deception and  
trickery of their false gods rather than on the love and  
grace of the One true God!***

**2. The Result – Their Wisdom / Eternal  
Damnation.**

# **The Wisdom of God is PRECIOUS!**

## **... Contrast ...**

**To the Saved the Gospel is Sure & Satisfying!**

### **1. It's the Power of God**

**Because the gods of men fail, the unsaved man is left to secure his fate through his "good" works. But the believer's salvation has been secured through the power of God.**

### **2. It Points to the Promise of God**

**The Resurrection / Isaiah 53 / I Cor.15!**



# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

***II. (1:19-20) The Wisdom of God is PERMANENT!***

***Now Paul encourages us by setting before us a story that supports his claim that God's Word is both "sure" and "satisfying." Here he quotes the words of the prophet Isaiah – Isaiah 29:14.***

***The Setting of the Story is Recorded  
In II Kings 18:13-19:36!***

# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

## **III. (1:21-25) The Wisdom of God is POWERFUL!**

**Ignoring the unsaved man's rejection of the cross, God was well pleased to proclaim the foolishness of the cross through those saved.**

**A. (v.21) The *Result*: God's Power Saved!**

**B. (vs.22-23) The *Reality*: We Serve!**

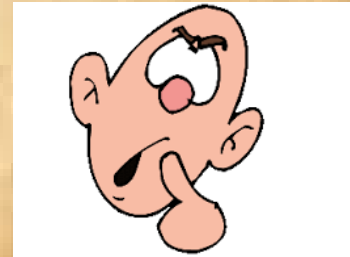
**C. (1:24-25) The *Reasoning*: We're Now Sanctified!**

# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

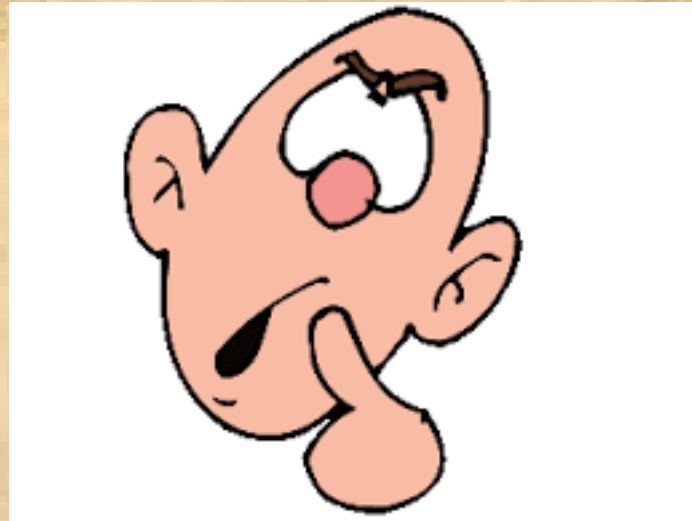
***IV. (1:26-28) The Wisdom of God is a PARADOX!***

***Because the wisdom of man and God's wisdom stand in opposition to each other, the power of God does not make sense.***

***How So?***

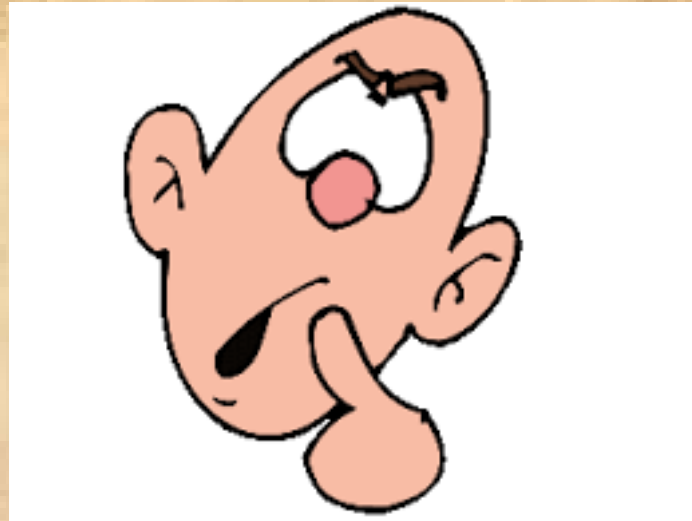


# Because of man's rejection:



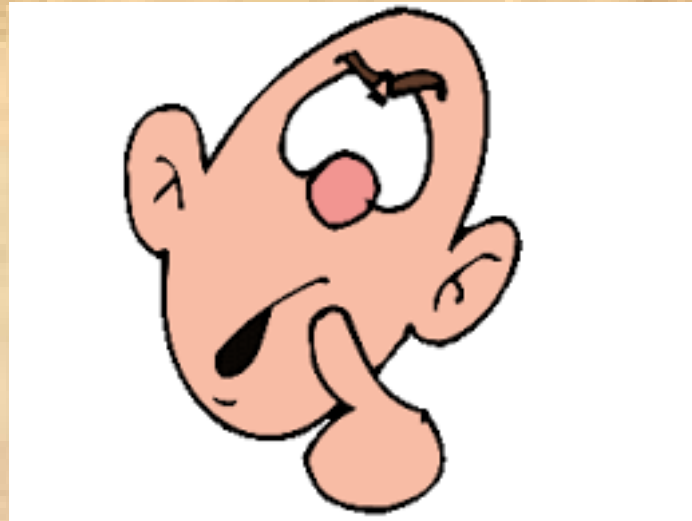
***A. (v.26) God has chosen to reject the wise, the mighty, and the noble, and use those considered by the world to be foolish.***

# Because of man's rejection:



***B. (v.27) God has chosen to use those considered by the world to be foolish to humble those who claim to be wise and strong.***

# Because of man's rejection:



***C. (v.28) God has chosen to use the despised (lowly) and weak (defenseless) of this world to shame those claiming to be wise and strong.***

# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

**V. (1:29-31) The Wisdom of God is PURPOSEFUL!**

***It is through the wisdom of God that ...***

***A. (v.29) All men will be humbled and come to acknowledge the saving work of Christ's crucifixion.***



# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

**V. (1:29-31) The Wisdom of God is PURPOSEFUL!**

***It is through the wisdom of God that ...***

***B. (v.30) All men will be humbled to admit that the cross (Christ's work) provides righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.***





# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

**V. (1:29-31) The Wisdom of God is PURPOSEFUL!**

***It is through the wisdom of God that ...***

***C. (v.31) All men will be humbled. In that day God's promise (Jer.9:23f) will be fulfilled – All boasting will focus on the grace of God!***



# Six Reasons Why the Wisdom of God is Superior to the Wisdom of Men:

***VI. (2:1-5) The Wisdom of God is PERSUASIVE!***

***In these closing verses Paul uses himself as an example. His purpose is to prove that the wisdom of God is more powerful than the works of men.***



# ***The Wisdom of God is Persuasive!***

***It is through the wisdom of God that ...***

***A. (2:1-2) You came to know Christ, not by means of my own wisdom, or pleasing presentation, or pleasant looks, but through the power of God.***



# *The Wisdom of God is Persuasive!*

*It is through the wisdom of God that ...*

*B. (2:3-4) You witnessed my proclamation of the gospel message at a time when I was at an all time low; a time when I was fleeing to save my life. God revealed the power of His Spirit during my time of weakness.*



# ***The Wisdom of God is Persuasive!***

***It is through the wisdom of God that ...***

***C. (2:5) You came to understand, through my poor example, that your faith in Christ's work on the cross was not based on the reasoning of man, but on the power of the one true God.***



# Thomas Aquinas

## One of the early church scholars

*The only way to convert a person to your point of view is to go over to where the person is standing, take him by the hand, and guide him. You don't stand across the room and shout at him. You don't order him to come to where you are. You start where he is and work from that position ... that's the only way to get people to budge!*

*That's exactly what Jesus did for us!*

*John 3:16!*

*Now it's our turn to reach out to others!*



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