

FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS Lesson 24
I Corinthians 1

The Apostle Paul is writing this letter to a church that he has established. The church was very immature.

The people were divided into four different groups: those who followed Paul, those who followed Apollos, those who followed Peter and those who said they followed Jesus only. (I Corinthians 1:12.)

They would not speak to each other, and it is thought that they even sat in different portions of the building. The church was also mixed up on the Lord's Supper, tongues, spiritual gifts, etc.

It was the poorest and weakest of all the churches; however, Paul writes to admonish the individuals in the church that God uses the weak things of this world to confound the wise. He wants to encourage the people to believe that God can use them.

I Corinthians 1 deals with the emphasis of God's willingness to use anybody who is completely surrendered to him, regardless of natural gifts, talents, and abilities.

I. THE SALUTATION.

1. Paul emphasizes his _____. I Corinthians 1:1 the words, "called to be an apostle."
2. Paul starts off by talking about _____. I Corinthians 1:1 the words, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God."
3. Paul gives them the _____ salutation. I Corinthians 1:3, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."
4. Paul tells the _____ things first. I Corinthians 1:4, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ."

Notice verse 6, "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you." Though this was the worst church of all, and though rebuke will come later, Paul begins by speaking well of them.

This is true also in the first three chapters of Revelation. In the Apostle John's letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor, he first complimented them. It mattered not how bad the church was; he commended them first. May we follow this example.

II. GOD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO USE ALL OF US. Notice the ones whom He will use.

1. He uses the preaching of the _____. In I Corinthians 1:18, 19 the word "prudent" means "intelligent."

The preaching of the cross brings to nothing the understanding of the intelligent. Just a simple God-called preacher can do more than anyone or anything else to fight the intellectual heathenism of our day.

2. He uses the "_____ of God." In I Corinthians 1:25 the word "foolishness" is a very interesting word.

3. God does not call many with _____ talent, wisdom, etc. In I Corinthians 1:26 notice the word “wise.”

This word would mean “_____.” We look at someone and say, “Boy, couldn’t God use him!”

God looks at someone whom we would never suspect and says, “If I would use him, I would get the glory.”

Notice the word “mighty” in verse 26. This word comes from the Greek word “dunatos,” which means “powerfully able.” From it we get our word “dynamite.”

Notice the word “noble” in verse 26.

4. God uses the _____. Notice in verse 27 the word “weak.”

Notice the word “despised” in verse 28. Nobody would suspect that this person could do anything.

God takes a little nobody and makes him a somebody so that the entire world will know what God has done.

The reason for all of this is found in verse 29, “That no flesh should glory in his presence,” and in verse 31, “That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”