

**FOUR QUESTIONS (20)**

\*Rhetorical questions to show the **absurdity** of placing faith in the world's perspective!

**QUESTIONS 1-3**

\*The answer to the first three informs the answer to the last question:

\*The **Wise, Scribe, and Debater** espouse the world's perspective, and they will be found **nowhere!**

**QUESTION 4**

\***YES!** God has flipped the tables on what is **foolish!**

**DEMAND / SEEK (22-24)**

**JEW & GREEKS (WORLD)**

\*The world demands and seeks human kingdoms and earthly wisdom.

-Mt 12:38-40

\*Paul is **instead** offering "**Christ crucified**" which is "**a stumbling block**" and "**folly**" to the world!

**THOSE WHO ARE CALLED**

\*We see the Christ as the "**power**" and "**wisdom**" of God! - Rom 1:16

**A CHOICE**

\*With the Christ, there are two options...

- (1) Build upon Him
- (2) Stumble over Him

1Co 3:11; Ps 118:22;  
Is 8:14; 28:16; Rom 9:33;  
Acts 4:7-12; Eph 2:19-20

**BUT GOD (27-28)**

\*The things the world views as "**foolish**" and "**weak**" (i.e. the Cross of Christ) will ultimately shame the world!  
-Phil 2:9-11

\*Those who are "**low**", "**despised**", and **NOTHING** by the world's view, who put their faith in Christ, will show the world to be **NOTHING!**

**TWO PERSPECTIVES:** In view of their divisions over *human matters* and Paul's exhortation to focus solely on **Christ (10-17)!**

18 **For** the **word of the cross** is folly to **those who are perishing**, but to **us who are being saved** it is the power of God. <- The choice of perspective is literally life or death

19 **For** it is written, "**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.**" <- THE FATE OF EARTHLY WISDOM!

20 Where is the **one who is wise?** Where is the **scribe?** Where is the **debater of this age?** Has not God made **foolish the wisdom of the world?**

21 **For** since, in the wisdom of God, the world **did not know God through wisdom**, it pleased God through **the folly of what we preach** to **save those who believe.**

22 **For** Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

23 **but** we preach Christ crucified, a **stumbling block** to Jews and **folly** to Gentiles,

Jews & Greeks: The difference is **choice** NOT race (Rom 10:12-13; Gal 3:28)

24 **but** to those who are called, **both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God** and **the wisdom of God.**

25 **For** the **foolishness of God** is **wiser than men**, and the **weakness of God** is **stronger than men.** <-

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.**

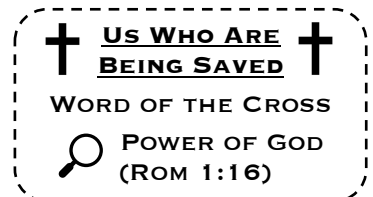
27 **But God** chose what is **foolish** in the world to **shame the wise**; God chose what is **weak** in the world to **shame the strong**; <sup>28</sup> **God** chose what is **low** and **despised** in the world, even things **that are not**, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 **so that** **no human being** might **boast** in the presence of **God.** <- Rom 3:21-28; Eph 2:1-10

30 **And** because of **him** you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom** from God, **righteousness** and **sanctification** and **redemption**,

**CHRIST JESUS IS EVERYTHING!  
WITHOUT HIM WE ARE NOTHING**

31 **so that** as it is written, "**Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**" <- CITED FROM JER 9:23-24



**IT IS WRITTEN (ISA 29:14)!**

The winning perspective has long since been determined and prophesied!

**THE WISDOM OF GOD (21)**

\*God's plan does not include any mechanism to build a relationship with Him through **earthly** or **human** means...**why?**

-1Co 1:17 "**not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power**"

-Sin - Heb 10:1-4; 1Jn 1:5

-Justice - Rom 3:21-26

\*The **CROSS** is the **ONLY** way to have a **relationship with God** (Jn 14:6), and it is **FOLLY** to the **WORLD!**

\*What is **FOLLY** to the **WORLD** is **SALVATION** to the believer!

**PARADOXICAL HYPERBOLE**

There is **no comparison** between the **power and wisdom of God** and the **power and wisdom of man!**

**CONSIDER YOUR CALLING**

\*Why are ones **without earthly WISDOM, POWER, or STATUS** more likely to respond to the Gospel?

-Mt 5:3 - A **relationship with Christ** will always begin with a **recognition of spiritual poverty!**

-Mt 19:16-26 "...**only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven**"

**WHAT IS THE POINT?**

It is not through human wisdom, strength, or worldly position that one is saved, but only through God's wise plan and power accomplished through the cross.

### Two Perspectives

#### **1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

### The Power of God

#### **Romans 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

### It is Written

#### **Isaiah 29:13–14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,

and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

<sup>14</sup> therefore, behold, I will again

do wonderful things with this people,  
with wonder upon wonder;

and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,

and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

### The Wisdom of God

#### **1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV)**

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

**Hebrews 10:1–4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup> But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**1 John 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

**Romans 3:21–26 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**John 14:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Demand/Seek**

**Matthew 12:38–40 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

**Romans 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**A Choice**

**1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 118:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

**Isaiah 8:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

**Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> therefore thus says the Lord God,  
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,  
a stone, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:  
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

**Romans 9:33 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

**Acts 4:7–12 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**Ephesians 2:19–20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

### Jews & Greeks

#### **Romans 10:12–13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

#### **Galatians 3:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### Consider Your Calling

#### **Matthew 5:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Matthew 19:16–26 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” <sup>18</sup> He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, <sup>19</sup> Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>20</sup> The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

### But God

#### **Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **Boasting**

### **Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

### **Romans 3:21–28 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

### **Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.