

The Foolishness of God

Students in a psychology class at San Diego State College were asked to name their most valuable personal asset. Two wrote down intelligence, both of them misspelled it. Winston Lord, former assistant Secretary of State and ambassador to China, told of a time when he and his wife were driving outside of Beijing. They came across a Buddhist temple and the head monk came out to greet him. His eyes lit up when he learned that Lord was an ambassador and that his wife Betty was a famous author. The monk then asked Lord if he would do this temple a great honor which would benefit future visitors, to guide and instruct them.

He then asked him to write something in English. Obviously, the ambassador and his wife were quite honored and the monk then handed them two wooden plaques and said, "Would you write in English on the plaque the word Ladies and on this plaque the word Gentlemen?" Many people like them think of themselves as being quite intelligent (and they are usually quite annoying to the few of us who are).

Many perceive themselves as quite intelligent and are often quite embarrassed to find out they either did not know as much as they thought they knew or that their perceived intelligence was not as important to others as it was to them. One of the greatest advantages of my studies is the fact that the more I learn the more I realize I have to learn.

The church at Corinth was undergoing a similar realization and they were having a difficult time coming to grips with this new reality. They, like many living in metropolitan areas of the 1st Century, prided themselves on their knowledge and felt as though they had everything figured out. Yet, here comes God in their lives and He is doing things in ways they just cannot comprehend. To them the ways of God are foolish because He was acting in ways that were contrary to what they believed to be the best of human wisdom.

In our lesson today we are going to consider what the Corinthians thought was the foolishness of God. However, Paul in this text will demonstrate to them and us that there is nothing wrong with the wisdom of God for it is infinite in nature. The problem is with man's wisdom. Man and God think differently—Isa. 55:8-9. Thus, if man and God see things differently, the problem does not lie in the wisdom of doing things God's way, it lies in our ability to understand the wisdom of doing things God's way.

Paul concludes this passage by putting man in his proper place. How? By stating that even the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man and that the weakness of God is stronger than the strength of man. It does not matter how wise we become—God is wiser. It does not matter what man achieves in his own power—God is more powerful.

There is a day coming when those who have refused the wisdom of God will say, I should have chosen His way and not mine. I should have trusted His wisdom and not mine. The only question will be; what will you say?

- Brian Mitchell, Jackson Church of Christ, Jackson, Missouri -

"HE is wise in heart and mighty in strength ..." - Job 9:4

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To our David McCoy, Sr. at the passing of his oldest son, Broda "David" McCoy, Jr. God bless and comfort the family.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Today, about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** the church building.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each **Thursday, at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** This class is open to all (new converts or others as a refresher). You may choose either the morning or evening class, each lasting for one hour.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, Feb. 10th, 8:30 a.m.** at the Columbian Church of Christ.

TO HAVE SURGERY: **Jim Hall** is scheduled for surgery, **Monday, Feb. 12th** at Trinity West in Steubenville.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital: Janice Hutchins (Marilyn Hadley's cousin) Home address: 130 N. Surry, East Liverpool, OH 43920. **Rehab, Beaver Falls:** Harry Huff. **At Home:** David Stefl, Randy Beagle, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Calcutta Health Care:** Linda Parkes. **Elsewhere: Todd Grimes** (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), 3827 Gibson St, New Castle, PA 16101. **Craig Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son), 63 Old Overlook Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28739. **Kevin Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son) in Texas. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

To What Lengths Would You Go?

An obscure family early in the Reformation lived under the reign of Queen Mary, who forbade any to own or even read the Bible. Nonetheless, this family had obtained an English Bible and treasured reading it above all else.

"To conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-great-grandfather read it to the family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes."

"One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon his feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before."

- From the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (via House to House *Heart to Heart*) -