

Never Forget Where You Came From

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 12th, 2008 • Pastor Chris Lankford

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”
~ 1st Corinthians 1:30-31 (NASB)

1) Look In The Mirror Of Christ!

- A) In an effort to provide “proof” that God chooses those who are “foolish” and “weak” (1st Corinthians 1:25), Paul appeals to the experience of the Corinthian church which he planted (1:26).**

- B) Paul appeals to the Corinthians to “observe” or “look at” or “contemplate” their own calling -- their experience of being drawn into God’s family (1:26).**

- C) “Remember where you came from?” Paul asks the Corinthians (1:26). Their calling was not based on wisdom, strength, or birthright. These three represent pillars of influence in Corinthian society (and ours) -- which amount to ZERO in God’s economy of salvation.**

D) Rather, God has chosen the fool, the weak, and the simple to reveal His ultimate wisdom and strength (1:27-28).

2) A Reversal Of Eternal Importance

A) It is not as though the wise, strong, and noble of this world, measured “according to the flesh,” (1:26) cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

B) Rather, the things which have value in this world have no value in God’s Kingdom. The things which have value in God’s Kingdom have no value (foolish, weak, base) in this world.

C) This serves a three-fold purpose:

1) Since God does the choosing, no one can take credit (boast) for choosing God (1:26, 30).

2) Since God’s riches have no value in the world, you can’t take credit (boast) for them -- nobody (of the world) would care (1:26-28).

3) Since God does the choosing, no one can take credit (boast) for distributing the riches, except God Himself. (1:30).

D) ONLY Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins, a sacrificial offering on behalf of “His doing” (1:30) is the TRUE power, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption of God!

E) Don’t forget from where you have come! If Christ is sufficient for salvation, then He is also sufficient for the rest of our lives -- a Kingdom power, wisdom, nobility, and holiness forever!