

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-7-10 AM  
"ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE KINGDOM CHALLENGE"  
1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-2:5  
#12 in Series, "The Kingdom Challenge, 2011"

**Ephesians 2:10 (KJV)** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath **before ordained** that we should walk in them."

**Hebrews 11:31 (NKJV)** "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

**Judges 6:15 (NKJV)** "So he said to Him, 'O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.'"

**1 Samuel 16:6-12 (NKJV)** "6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed *is* before Him.' 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' 8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all the young men here?' Then he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.' 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!'"

I. The Paradox (vv. 26-28)

**Luke 16:15b (NKJV)** "For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

A. Those God Does Not Call (v. 26)

**Acts 4:13 (ESV)** "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

"Let no cultured person draw near, none wise, and none sensible, for all that kind of thing we count evil; but if any man is ignorant, if any man is wanting in sense and culture, if anybody is a fool, let him come boldly [to become a Christian]...We see them in their own houses, wool dresses, cobblers, the worst, the vulgarest, the most uneducated persons...They are like a swarm of bats or ants creeping out of their nest, or frogs holding a symposium around a swamp, or worms convening in mud."

—Celsus, 178 AD

B. Those God Does Call (vv. 27-28)

II. The Purpose (v. 29)

*Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress,  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly,  
Wash me Savior, or I die!*

—Augustus Toplady (1832)

III. The Provision (v. 30)

A. Wisdom (v. 30a)

**Colossians 1:9b (NKJV)** "...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

**Colossians 2:3 (NKJV)** "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

B. Righteousness (v. 30b)

**Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)** "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."

C. Sanctification (v. 30c)

**Romans 6:22 (HCSB)** "But now, since you have been liberated from sin and become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the end is eternal life!"

D. Redemption (v. 30d)

**Romans 8:23 (NKJV)** "Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."

**Colossians 2:10a (NKJV)** "and you are complete in Him..."

IV. The Praise (v. 31)

**Galatians 6:14a (NKJV)** "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

V. The Presentation (vv. 1-5)

A. Paul's Approach (vv. 1-2)

B. Paul's Attitude (vv. 3-4)

**Romans 1:16 (NKJV)** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

C. Paul's Aim (V5)

"The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher, otherwise men would be the converters of souls, nor does it lie in the preacher's learning, otherwise it would consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach until our tongues rotted, till we would exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless the Holy Spirit be with the word of God to give it the power to convert the soul."

—Charles Spurgeon