

July 3, 2011

"The People God Chooses, the People God Uses"
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

I. Consider, who God chooses for salvation –

1. Not many of the world's best are chosen: This is something we should take notice of, something we should consider:

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. (1 Corinthians 1:26 NKJ)

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (1 Corinthians 1:26 NAS)

- A. Few "wise" according to the flesh, as God has been speaking about destroying the wisdom of this world –

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." (1 Corinthians 1:19 NKJ) (see 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

- B. Few "mighty" – referring to physical strength but also to political or any other strength of influence among men!

- C. Few "noble" – few were born into high status families!

2. But God has chosen –

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, (1 Corinthians 1:27-28 NKJ)

- A. "Foolish things" μωρός moros {mo-ros'} God has chosen this world's morons –

Recently a blogger, in a typical name-calling tirade against Answers in Genesis and me that we are used to seeing these days from skeptics, stated:

Religious nut Ken Ham . . . what a moron! It's idiotic garbage that Ken Ham spews out that keep rational people running as far away from religion as they can get!

He then continued to spew out his venom and then stated:

This guy [Ken Ham] also truly believes that the dinosaurs are only a few thousand years old! Are you serious? Oh, but that's right, I keep forgetting that all that scientific carbon dating and such is just all nonsense.

Actually, carbon dating has *nothing* to do with secularists attempting to date dinosaur bones. They believe dinosaur bones are millions of years old, whereas carbon dating can only be used to date things thousands of years old. Any credible secular scientist would gasp as this blogger's statement, as it shows his total ignorance of carbon dating.

- B. "Weak things" weak, infirm, feeble-

* Think Israel (a nation of slaves) and Moses (a man with a brother and a stick) against Egypt

* Think David vs. Goliath

* Christians vs. the Roman Empire –

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:36-37 NKJ)

- C. "Base things" – without family status

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"¹⁵ 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."¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." (Judges 6:14-16 NKJ)

- D. "things which are despised" –

E. "things which are not" – PEOPLE who are NOTHING, Nobodies!

- F. God chooses people who are humble about their selves –

¹¹ "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

¹³ "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Luk 18:11-14 NKJ)

II. Consider, why God chooses such people –
that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:29 NKJ)

that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:31 NKJ)

1. This is our chief end, the reason for our creation and redemption –

WSC 1 What is the chief end of man? **A.** Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. (WSC 1:1 WCS)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

2. Glorifying in worldly accomplishments means nothing to God –
Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

3. Those God uses the most are often those who care less about their own glory –

³ (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) (Num 12:3 NKJ)

III. Consider, what God gives to the humble people He chooses –

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- (1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJ)

1. We have by God's grace, Christ's wisdom –

A. We are told to pray for wisdom –

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:4-5 NKJ)

B. We have the mind of Christ –

For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16 NKJ)

2. We have Christ's righteousness imputed to us –

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. (Romans 3:28 NKJ)

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, (Romans 3:21 NKJ) even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; (Romans 3:22 NKJ)

3. Christ is our sanctification –

Jesus is our Prophet, Priest and King, He leads us in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, when we think of sanctification we usually think of the Holy Spirit and yet it is Jesus Christ Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit –

¹¹ "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mat 3:11 NKJ)

4. Christ is our redemption –

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJ)

5. Let us glory in the LORD –

that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:31 NKJ)