

The Chosen “Nobodies”: The “Foolishness” of God Part 1

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1 Corinthians 1:26-1:31 *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 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, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD.”*

1. God saves the “Nobodies” so that No One May Boast – vs. 26

- a. God doesn’t save many of the wise, influential, and wealthy people of the world

Note: Paul was correcting in the Corinthian church an issue of pride. Paul reminds them of their past and how by “human standards,” they were “nobodies.”

- It’s not that God cannot save a wise, wealthy or notable person
- It’s just that such often have too much pride – c.f. Matt. 19:23
- Being highly advantaged in this world is in no sense an advantage in the eyes of God

- b. The salvation of “nobodies” of this world disgraces the “somebodies” of this world – vs. 27-28

- A “wise” man can’t figure out a way to heaven – Matt. 11:25
- A man of “influence” can’t force his way to heaven – John 14:6
- A rich man can’t buy his way into heaven – Matt. 19:23-24

- c. No one can boast that his or her wisdom, influence, or wealth was any advantage in receiving salvation – vs. 29

2. God Saves the “Nobodies” of the World so They May Boast In Him – vs. 31

- a. It is because of God – and only God – that they are saved – vs. 30
- b. All who have been saved must boast in Him – vs. 31

Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a “somebody” in the world? What attributes of a “somebody” are implied?
2. What do you think it means when we realize that God takes great pleasure in saving “nobodies?” What does it mean to be a “nobody?” With this in mind, before you came to faith in Christ, how would you have described yourself? How about after?
3. *Read Jeremiah 9:24.* How can you go about living a life that focuses on bringing glory to God and not self? What are some things that we need to be careful and aware of?

Prayer: *“Father, thank you for saving me despite my self and sin. Thank you for choosing to use the weak, the poor, and those of no great reputation. May I never boast in myself, my abilities, or my accolades. May my boasting always be in Christ and what He has done for me and in me. May my life and words constantly point people to the One we must boast in, Jesus Christ. Thank you in Jesus’ name, amen!”*