

The Moral Compass

1 Corinthians 1



**I. Salvation Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:18**

Word of cross: *foolishness*

- “Like sick folk who have no appetite for food, or madmen who abuse their best friends” – Chrysostom
- “Jesus couldn’t save Himself!” Is.8:19
 - *He did*, Jn.10:11,17-18
 - Mt.16:22-23

**Some are
perishing**

**Some are
being saved**

I. Salvation Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:18

**II. Superiority Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:19-20**

‘Destroy *wisdom of wise*’ (Is.29:14)

■ **‘Where is . . .’ (20)**

**Cicero described Corinth
1 Co.15:55, Divine victory**

God demolishes worldly wisdom with:

- 1. Truth. Resurrection**
- 2. Time. Mt.11:19**
- 3. Torment. Lk.16**

'Destroy *wisdom of wise*' (Is.29:14)

■ 'Where is ...' (20)

His resurrection...

Charged disciples

Changed day of worship

Convicted world

**Corinth
victory**

God demonstrates His victory with:

- 1. Truth. Resurrection**
- 2. Time. Mt.11:19**
- 3. Torment. Lk.16**

I. Salvation Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:18

II. Superiority Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:19-20

**III. Subject Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:21-25**

God's intentional choice – He chose the gospel's . . .

- 1. Foolishness over human logic**
- 2. Condemnation over human excuses**
- 3. Humility over human pride (1:18-25, 26)**
- 4. Truth over human lies**
- 5. Permanence over human brevity**
- 6. Salvation over human loss**

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Most people, even religious, disagree

Jews, Greeks, and Called (22-24)

**¹Jews
seek
sign
Mt.12; 16**

**³Called of
'Christ
Crucified'
1 Co.1:24,23**

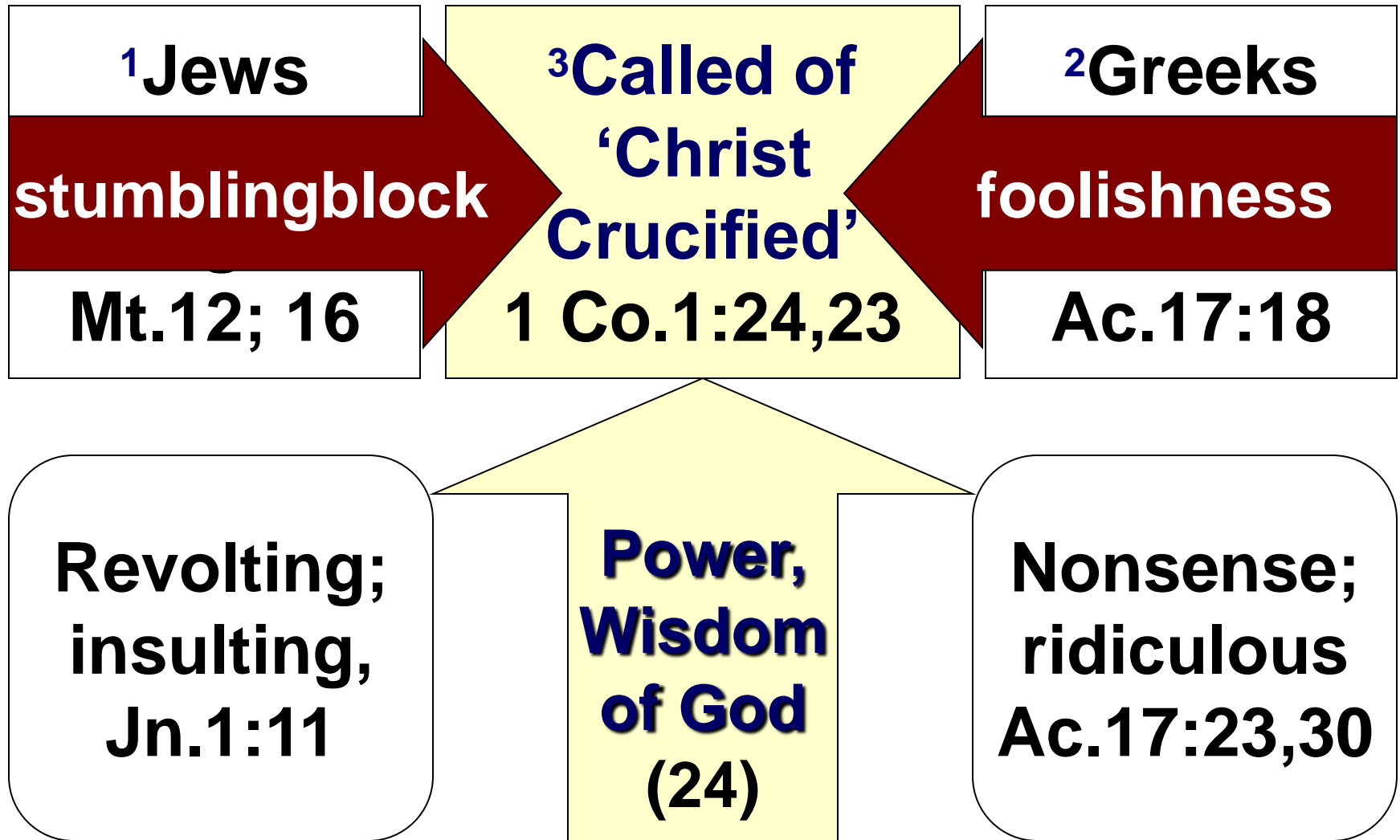
**²Greeks
seek
wisdom
Ac.17:18**

**Revolting;
insulting,
Jn.1:11**

**Power,
Wisdom
of God
(24)**

**Nonsense;
ridiculous
Ac.17:23,30**

Jews, Greeks, and Called (22-24)



1Jews

stumblingblock

Mt.12; 16

**3Called of
'Christ
Crucified'**

1 Co.1:24,23

2Greeks

foolishness

Ac.17:18

**Revolting;
insulting,
Jn.1:11**

**Power,
Wisdom
of God
(24)**

**Nonsense;
ridiculous
Ac.17:23,30**

The contrast (24-25)

²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

‘But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us’ – 2 Co.4:7

Fragile clay jars held world’s greatest treasure

I. Salvation Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:18

II. Superiority Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:19-20

III. Subject Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:21-25

**IV. Silliness Of
God's Wisdom
1 Co.1:26-31**

Your calling (26): look around you

■ A contrast –

²⁶For you see your calling, brethren, that not many **wise according to the flesh, not many **mighty**, not many **noble**, are called.**

²⁷But 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; ²⁸and the **base** things of the world...**

What did God choose? (27-28)

1. *Foolish things* (seem meaningless)

River, 2 K.5

Baptism, 1 Co.1

Parade, Josh.6

Supper, 1 Co.11

Spit, Jn.9

Jesus, 1 Co.15

What did God choose? (27-28)

1. *Foolish things*

2. ***Weak things*** (seem weak to world)

**Lord on the cross;
His disciples as they bore a cross**

Christianity, a religion for weaklings
– Nietzsche

What did God choose? (27-28)

1. *Foolish things*
2. *Weak things*
3. ***Base things*** (of low birth; ignoble)

“Despised” –
Think nothing of
Lk.23:11

“Not” –
nobody; nothing
Ac.17:18...32

**1. We need the Gospel:
only hope of salvation
(1 Co.1:29-31)**

**Jews:
work way
to heaven
Gospel:
Forgiveness
not perfection**

**Greeks:
think way
to heaven(?)
Gospel:
Faith
not wisdom**

1. We need the Gospel: only hope of salvation (1 Co.1:29-31)

Jews:
work way

to hear

Gosp

Forgiveness
not perfection

Greeks:
think way

heaven(?)

ospel:

Faith
not wisdom

Mark 16:15-16

1. We need the Gospel

2. Most choose what God rejected

Change gospel: appeal to moderns w. popular lies, not unpopular truth

“Moderns can’t relate to ancient writings”

¹Ancients didn’t either (1 Co.1)

²God knew this, yet stayed with His plan

Mk.16:15-16

1. We need the Gospel
2. Most choose what God rejects

3. People want inclusive salvation

“Many ways, many people”

“Tolerance; not judgmental”

NT shows exclusion: one way

Mk.16:15-16

1. We need the Gospel
2. Most choose what God rejects
3. People want an inclusive salvation

4. God can use anyone – even you!

...being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now –1 Cor.4:13.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus –Acts 4:13.

1. We need the Gospel
2. Most choose what God rejects
3. People want an inclusive salvation
4. God can use anyone – even you!

5. What is the only alternative?

**Evolution: belief that nothing produced a bang, created the universe, allowed life on earth to arise from dirt, leaving us w/o purpose, a code of conduct, or hope, but we should hug trees and protect the earth to feel good about ourselves.
Makes perfect sense.**