

A CLOSER LOOK IN THE MIRROR 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

What mirror will give an accurate reflection when our thinking needs adjustment?

(James 1:22-25)

²² *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* ²³ *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does."*

Paul reminds them again of their "calling." (v. 26) —See 1:2, 9, 24.

The "calling" is God's sovereign action whereby He summons a sinner to respond in faith to the gospel, enabling him by grace to believe on Christ.

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR HUMAN PRIDE AT THE CROSS OF JESUS.
A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR CALLING TO FOLLOW CHRIST MAY RESULT IN AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT.

I. CONSIDER US WHOM GOD CHOOSES (1:26-28)

- A. Those who receive God's calling and inherit salvation are NOT those whom the world's wisdom would have selected:
- 1) the wise
 - 2) the mighty
 - 3) the noble
- B. Those who receive God's calling are those whom the world discards and discounts:
- 1) foolish things
 - 2) weak things
 - 3) lowly things
 - 4) despised things
 - 5) the things that "are not"

II. CONSIDER WHY GOD CHOOSES US (1:27-29, 31)

- A. To shame the thinking/wisdom of the world (vv. 27-28)
- B. To stop any boasting before God (v. 29)

(Romans 3:19, 27)

¹⁹ *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God."*

²⁷ *Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded."*

- C. To show the glory of God (v. 31)

(Jeremiah 9:23-24)

²³ *This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD."*

III. CONSIDER WHAT GOD'S CHOICE OF US MEANS (1:30)

CHRIST HIMSELF IS ALL WE NEED.

God's "wisdom" in Christ is more than cognitive truth. It means possessing all that is needed to live life well as His child. It is having the mindset, the world view that provides understanding of who we are, the world we live in, what the future holds.

SPECIFICALLY, WE GAIN 3 LIFE-CHANGING BENEFITS FROM OUR UNION WITH CHRIST:

- A. "righteousness"—This is a legal benefit.
- B. "sanctification"—This is an empirical benefit.
- C. "redemption"—This is a hopeful benefit.

If you haven't looked carefully at YOUR CALLING IN CHRIST for awhile, your life can become untidy, your behavior disorderly, and your attitudes in disarray.

An appropriate response: turn away from the world's wisdom and turn to God's wisdom for your life.

MY LIFE LESSON: I NEED TO KNOW WHO I AM IN JESUS SO THAT I CAN BECOME WHO HE WANTS ME TO BE.