

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Are you wise or foolish? What is wisdom?

Does it matter how many degrees, A level's or GCSE's you have? Earthly wisdom is often measured by exam results yet there are people with great academic achievement who have little common sense and some with few academic achievements who have great wisdom in daily living.

There has been debate on many occasions as to whether the academic qualifications of clergy should be put up on church noticeboards. In some places it is thought it may separate the clergy from the people.

What is of importance, for clergy and others, is the closeness of our relationship to God, our sense for the heart of God.

In this passage Paul is looking at how God, in Jesus, turned what appeared to be foolishness into a display of wisdom. Paul asks the readers, who had become followers of Jesus, to look at their own lives pre and post Jesus in their lives; to see how God had used them for his purpose despite in earthly terms they were seen as nothing.

The message of Easter is one of turning things upside down; what appeared disaster, in the death of Jesus upon the cross, was turned into victory through the resurrection.

In Christ there is hope. When we look at the world around us we can feel despair as one nation invades another. We can feel overwhelmed as the results of climate change issues are shared. There are concerns as to whether things are moving in the right direction with greenhouse gas emissions or are we still heading for overheating of the planet?

The God who created humankind, and the world in which we live, created us with the ability to think and to discover. It is through that thinking and (scientific) discovery, with which God has equipped us, that we can have hope. Yet "we" perhaps need to look to the weak and foolish to find some of the answers.

We are all part of the solution; be we wise or foolish in earthly terms. The way we live, our daily choices, has an impact on the environment and an impact upon people living near by and far away. We can make wise or foolish choices; the result of our choice has an impact.