

Sunday, March 3, 2024 CCC

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

*“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
And the weakness of God is stronger than men.” v.25*

“Let him [or her] who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*“Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,
let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches;
but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth;
for in these things I delight, says the LORD.’” **Jeremiah 9:23,24***

*“And the Lord said;
‘Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment of men learned by rote;
therefore, behold, I will again do marvelous things with this people,
wonderful and marvelous;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discerning men shall be hid.” **Isaiah 29: 13,14***

In this letter to the church in Corinth, Paul is not presenting a new strategy of God unveiled in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is speaking out of the prophetic witness of the Hebrew Scriptures. God has always worked in a way that cuts across business as usual. For some reason people want to put their trust in systems of management that try to protect resources for the use of their own group. Certainly, the **Book of Proverbs** exhorts us to get up early, work hard, look ahead for what we will need, manage our resources wisely, and be generous to those who are needy without yielding to foolishness. The ways of God, however, go beyond prudent self-preservation and best practices. God seems not to be irrational, but to transcend, go beyond, operate from a wider and deeper practice of steadfast love *hesed*, justice and righteousness.

We are not instructed to adapt a new philosophy, wise up, nor to leave our human living behind and become gods, but to get in sync with the wisdom of God which has that added dimension. Success, the approval of others, achievement, character development, wisdom and power will never bring the peace and joy that God shares with us just because He can. When the Israelites entered the promised land, God wanted to lead the community directly through His prophets along these lines (**1 Samuel 8:4-22**), but then and since, God’s people feel safer with a human system in place. How shall **we** receive this word for our own community of faith?