

God's Unexpected Ways / Dr. Franklin L. Kirksey

God's ways are mysterious to the mind of man. We read about God in Romans 11:33, "His ways [are] past finding out!" This means God's ways are beyond human comprehension or understanding. "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9). When we come to the words recorded in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 it is helpful to ask three questions.

Who? "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Corinthians 1:26). Not many believers are what the world would consider wise, mighty, or noble. A few were, like Sosthenes and Crispus, who were chief rulers in the synagogue, and Erastus, who was the city treasurer, and Gaius and Chloe, who were wealthy businesspeople, but most were not.

What? "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; 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" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). Charles R. Swindoll explains, "God chooses nobodies and turns them into somebodies."

Why? ". . .that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:29-31). Previously, Paul referred to "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:21, 24), now he refers to "Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God." In Christ Jesus we have "righteousness." We are set *right with* God. In Christ Jesus we have "sanctification." We are set *apart to* God. He takes an unholy sinner and makes that sinner a saint. In Christ Jesus we have "redemption." We are set *free by* God. This speaks of freedom from sin and its penalty, power, and ultimately from its presence. It is all because of Jesus, therefore, there can be no boasting before God. Ron Dunn said, "God always takes the route that brings Him the most glory." This is a fulfillment of Jeremiah 9:23-24, "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let 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, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord."

As Adrian Rogers said, "I'm just a nobody telling everybody about Somebody who can save anybody."