

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31, NIV84)

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Foolish, weak and lowly—not exactly a flattering character sketch for a Christian, at least not by human standards. The world looks to the movers and shakers of society for guidance: the intellectual, the influential, the powerful. "If this is what the elites are saying, then we need to fall in line in agreement." Then we too can be considered "woke"—knowledgeable, informed and chic.

But our purpose and goal as followers of Christ is not to impress the world, so as to gain its praise and admiration. We are, however, as Christians to make an impression on the world, just as the apostles Peter and John made an impression on the Jewish rulers of their day: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

Despite the slurs and slights of the world, you and I can proudly boast: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Loved in Christ with you,
Pastor Golm

June 24

Redeemed by Grace

Things which are despised hath God chosen. I Corinthians 1:28

Can it really be possible that God loves ME! So often I have failed him! So often I have sinned! So often I have had to say with Paul: "O wretched man that I am ... I know that in me dwelleth no good thing." Is it possible that God could consider ME a saint, poor, miserable sinner that I am?

Macaulay tells of a poor apprentice who made a cathedral window entirely out

of the pieces of glass which his master had condemned and thrown away. Upon completion, it won the admiration and acclaim of all who saw it. His master's boasted work, made of exquisite panels of beautiful glass, was rejected; but the window made of condemned materials by the hand of the unknown artist was given place of honor in the great cathedral.

So too, Christ's kingdom is made up of rejected materials. He has taken the fallen sons of men, and has set them, like diamonds, to sparkle for ever in the diadem of his glory. "The base things of the world and things which are despised [the humble, those of little worth] hath God chosen."

What a blessed thought! The base things of the world-that means ME-hath God chosen, and by his unsearchable mercy in Christ he has drawn me into the company of those whom he will come to gather "in the day when he makes up his jewels". Yes, I can be sure God loves me as I am. And, loving me through Jesus Christ my Savior, he will guide, protect, and keep me to the end. With the poet we can marvel:

By grace! None dare claim any merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

Lord, I thank You that, unworthy though I am, You have chosen me to be Your child through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)