

The Foolishness of God Vs the Wisdom of Men (1 Cor. 1:18-29)

A. God has always had the problem of keeping man in his place and keeping him thinking like He wants him to think.

1. I want to read some verses and select one or two verses from these upon which we'll base our study.

1 Cor. 1:18-29 - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

2. I want to stop there because that is the thought that I want to impress upon your mind and have you thinking about as we develop the lesson.
 - a. We want to look specifically at vs. 25, where he said, "**Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than man.**"
 - b. Now I don't understand the apostle to mean to suggest that God is weak or **foolish** in any way - that God ever had a foolish thought of any kind.
 - c. But he is engaging in **irony** here - a **form of speech** that is to be interpreted in the opposite, and when compared by the people of the world the wisdom of the world considers the ways of God to

be foolish.

1) It is significant that he would bring that up when he writes this letter to the church at **Corinth**, a city of some 400,000 people at that time - **surpassed only** by Rome, Antioch, and Alexander.

2) It was a great city of learning and of philosophy, and perhaps what we might refer to as a **humanistic society**.

d. So, in that setting and, in that city, Paul sees fit to remind these people concerning the **foolish things of God**, as looked upon by the **wisdom of men** - when men begin to **substitute** their will - **their wisdom** - for the **revelation of God**.

B. We might incorporate some other passages with this in the beginning of our study.

1. For example, in **Rom. 9:20** the apostle Paul said, "But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'why have you made me like this?'".

a. Then he gave the illustration in the **form of a question**:
"Does the potter have power over the clay...?"

b. Perhaps you have been to **Silver Dollar City** or somewhere and seen a **potter** work.

1) He takes the clay and puts it on a **revolving table** and shapes it into whatever kind of vessel he desires.

2) Paul is saying, "Does not the potter have power over the clay"? indicative of the fact that **God has power over man**.

3) And that is what he is trying to get these people to see.

4) And so, the thing formed, naturally does not say to the thing that formed it, "Why did you make me like this?".

5) It is obvious, isn't it, that **the creator is greater** than the creature?

2. Over in **Ch. 11:33, 34** of **Romans** Paul said, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His Judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His

counselor?" And that is along the same line that we're talking about.

3. Now in **2 Cor. 5:7** Paul said, "**We walk by faith and not by sight**".

4. I might remind you also of the statement he made in **Ch. 11:3**, where he said concerning these same people: "**But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**".

a. Think about that for a moment.

b. You know the Bible is not nearly as **complicated** as we make it.

c. It is not nearly as complicated as the **religious world** would have us to believe.

d. The Bible talks about the ***simplicity of God's revelation***.

1) All we need to do is study it and let it mean what it says and say what it means and accept it and stop thinking for God and substituting our will for the will of God.

2) That is what Paul is trying to get them to do.

C. I want to make a statement here that I want you to remember.

1. **God never gave a plan for redeeming or delivering man from anything that human wisdom would approve.** (repeat)

2. We shall endeavor to illustrate this as we look at some **examples of The Foolishness of God Vs. the Wisdom of Men**.

D. There is a story told about a man who owned a rather large farm, and from time to time, he **needed help** - he needed **employees** - somebody to live on the farm and to help him.

1. He put up a sign down on the road one day saying that he needed a **farm hand**.

2. And not long after that a strong looking young man came to the door, and the old gentleman let him in.

- a. He seemed to be **intelligent** and **strong** and capable of doing the work that needed to be done on the farm.
 - b. But before he hired him, he reached behind the door and got a **chopping ax** and handed it to the young man and said, *"I have a wagon down there in the barn...I want you to go down there and chop the tongue in two..."*
 - 1) The man said, **"What do you think I am a fool, why do you want the tongue chopped off your wagon?"**
 - 2) Then the old gentleman said, **"I'm sorry, I can't use you."** And the young man went on his way.
3. And over the **next few days** he did that with a few others.
- a. Until **finally** one day a young man knocked at the door and said that he had seen the sign and that he needed a job.
 - b. The old gentleman talked to him, and everything **seemed to be in order** so he reached for the **ax** again. He said, **"There is one thing that I want you to do for me right now. Take this ax and going down to the barn and chop the tongue in two."**
 - 1) The young man **looked at him**, and looked at the **ax**, then down toward the barn and then said, **"I don't understand why you want the tongue chopped off your wagon, but if that is what you want done I'm willing to do it"**.
 - 2) So, he took the ax down to the wagon and chopped the tongue off and came dragging it back.
 - 3) The old gentleman said (with a smile) **"You are the fellow that I have been looking for for a long time - for you will follow instructions"**.
 - c. Now it may have cost him the price of a good **wagon tongue**, but I think that I can see his reasoning.
 - 1) It would save a lot of arguing - a lot of controversy.
 - 2) You see, he knew if he hired anyone of those others and he told one of them, "Go over there and plow that back forty," he

might have said, "**I don't think we ought to plow that today**" or we ought to **plant this**, or we ought to **do this or that**; so, he would have had an **argument** with him.

- 3) What he wanted was a man that would do whatever he told him to do because he told him to do it.
- 4) And he needed no other reason than that. YOU SEE THE LESSON?
 - a) The man who is the **boss** has the right to tell his employees **how** and **when** he wants it done, and if the worker thinks that it is **upside down and back-words** he is obligated to do like the boss says.
 - b) That is what Paul is trying to get us to see here in this matter of **God's revelation** to man and the attitude that man is to have toward it.
 - c) The only reason you have for doing anything in religion is because **God said do it!**
 - i. You don't need to explain, you don't need to apologize, you don't need to rationalize, you don't need to do anything but give book, chapter and verse.
 - ii. If the Lord said to do it that is the only reason you need.

Body

I. Now Let Me Take You on A Little Tour Through the Bible, And Look At Some Examples That Illustrate the Thing That We're Talking About - The Foolishness....

A. In **Num. 21** we read where the children of Israel came from Mt. Hor by the Red Sea to encompass the land of Edom, and they had a long journey and they got hungry, and they began to complain and to **gripe** and **grumble** against Moses.

1. And they began to **question his motives** for bringing them out there.
2. They said, "**why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the**

Wilderness?"

3. They said, "There is no food and water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."
 - a. That teaches us, incidentally, that it is wrong to **murmur** - to **gripe** and **complain**.
 - b. There are too many things to be **thankful for** for us to do that.
 - c. Remember, Paul said, "**Neither murmur as some of them murmured**" (1 Cor. 10:10).
 - 1) **Well, what happened to them?**
 - 2) Because of their sins the Lord sent **serpents** among the people and they **bit** the people.
 - 3) Many of them were **dying** and they came to Moses admitting they had sinned saying, "**We have sinned for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.**"
 - 4) And when Moses went to God about it He said, "**Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks shall live.**"
 - 5) And Moses made a serpent out of brass.....
 - 6) Now, nobody before that time ever heard of **curing a snake bite** by **looking** upon a **brazen serpent**.
 - 7) Isn't it interesting that God selected **as a remedy** something **like** the very thing that caused the trouble.
 - 8) And in that connection, I would remind you of what **Jn.** wrote in **Jn. 3**, beginning in **verse 14**, where he said, "**as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.**"
 - 9) So, God chose man, made in the likeness of all of us, as a servant of God to conquer the very problem that had entered into the world, and that is **sin** - just as he did back there.

4. There are many lessons about that, but the lesson is that nobody ever heard of curing a snake bite in that way- by looking upon a brazen serpent.

a. Now it took **effort** on their part.

b. Don't let anybody take comfort in thinking that this was a case of **curing by "Faith Only"**.

1) They had to look!

2) When they were bitten and swelling up and getting sick they didn't argue: **"If I have to look I'll destroy the grace of God"**

3) They didn't argue like that.

4) Thy **did what they were told to do** and all they were told to do.

5) They were told to **look** upon the serpent and those that looked would be healed of their snake bite.

6) And they **looked**, and they **were healed**.

7) DID YOU EVER HEAR OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

B. In the **6th Ch. of Joshua**, we have another example illustrating the same thing we are talking about.

1. God wanted his people to **conquer Jericho**, and He said to Joshua, **"I have given Jericho into your hands."**

a. "*Have given*" is **past tense** -God said, I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU.

b. I make this observation because there are preachers and people all around here that will read in John and other places where God said, "*I have given you everlasting life*", and they conclude that we have it **at the point that we believe**, and not only that but that we **can't lose it** - regardless of how we live.

1) We need to learn lessons like this.

2) When God said to Joshua, "**I have given you Jericho**", he had to **do something to get it** - to take possession of it.

3) After God said, "I have given it to you", He then told him **how**

to go out and take it.

- 4) And it is **a foolish plan!**
- 5) He told him to take his people down and **march around the wall** once a day for **6** days.
- 6) You can imagine how those people of that city laughed at those Israelites marching around the city thinking they were going to destroy it in that way.
- 7) He said, "*On the seventh day you are to march around it seven times*".
 - a) Then the priests, seven of them, were to blow on the trumpets made of ram's horns and all the people were to give a shout.
 - b) And he said, When you do that the walls will fall down (vs 5)

2. We're talking about the ***foolishness of God.***

- a. Who ever heard of anyone trying to **down a strong fortified wall** by just **marching** around it and **blowing** on a horn and shouting?
- b. **NOBODY!**
- c. No man would have thought of that in a million years.
 - 1) If he had he would have immediately discarded it thinking it would not get the job done.
 - 2) **BUT IT DID!**
 - 3) Just another example of the FOOLISHNESS OF GOD VS WISDOM OF MEN.

C. In **II Kings 5** we read about a man by the name of **Naaman**.

1. You've heard about him, studied about him, and heard him mentioned in lessons many times.
2. The record tells us that he was a **mighty** man, an **honorable** man, a **victorious** man, a very **capable** commander of the army of the king of **Syria**.

- a. But the last phrase of the first verse of the chapter says, *"But he was a leper"*.
 - b. He had a real problem - he had **leprosy**.
3. These people in their fighting, had gone out and brought captive from among the Israelites a **young lady** who waited on **Naaman's wife** - she was the maid.
- a. She believed in the **God of Israel** - these were idolatrous people.
 - b. She made the comment one day that she wished that her master knew a prophet of God that she knew.
 - c. She said he would **heal him** of his leprosy.
 - d. Well, **somebody told Naaman** what she said.
 - e. Finally, (skipping all the details) Naaman came to the door of the prophet of God to be healed.
 - 1) But **Elijah** didn't even go out to see him.
 - 2) Seemed to be a little **rude** - inhospitable to say the least.
 - 3) Then a **servant** came out and said, **"You go down to the river Jordan and dip 7 times."**
 - 4) You know what his reaction was? **Behold I thought...**
 - 5) He **thought** that Elijah would come out and rub his hands over his body - call upon the Lord - he had his little ceremony all figured out how he **thought** Elijah **ought** to go about healing him.
 - 6) But he didn't do it that way.
 - 7) He said, **"You go down...and dip 7 times"**.
 - 8) But Naaman began to want to **substitute!**
 - 9) He said, **"Are not the rivers of Israel better than the waters of Jordan? Could I not go and wash in one of these and be clean?"**
4. You know, man just doesn't want to do **what God tells him to do**.

- a. That's the problem that we're talking about.
- b. He had rather substitute - he had rather do something else, and the **world is full of people like that** - that make the same kind of arguments.
 - 1) God tells them to **sing**, for instance, and make melody in their heart, and offer the fruit of their lips in their praise to God in *music*.
 - a) But they had rather **bang** on a **piano**.
 - b) They had rather listen to *mechanical instruments* of music.
 - 2) God said that we're buried with the Lord in baptism, but millions say, "**But can't we be sprinkled?**"
 - a) "That is an awful lot of trouble to get wet all over".
 - b) "Can't we just do it this way?" someone says, "**why not?**" and they go on and do it.
 - 3) God says for his work to be financed by the free-will offering contribution of the saints on the Lord's Day.
 - a) But sectarians say, "**Can't we sell things? Can't we operate businesses?**" And, "**Can't we have pie suppers and raffles and such things?**"
 - b) They just don't want to do it like the Lord wants it done.
 - c) They had rather **tell Him how they want** to do it.
 - d) You see what I'm talking about, and you don't have to go very far to find this sort of thinking.

5. Now back to Naaman:

- a. After he got angry about the instructions, he wanted to go to one of two other rivers.
- b. Isn't human nature interesting!
- c. Do you know how to get something done that you want done really bad.
 - 1) Just drop a thought and don't say any more about

- it - don't bring it up again.
- 2) And in a few **days** or a few **weeks** he or she will think about that again and **think they thought of it.**
 - 3) And they will say, "**Why don't we do...?**", and you just smile and go on and do it.
 - 4) It's that way in the church sometimes.
 - i. You can't get the cooperation of **some** brethren to save your life, unless **they thought of** what you're wanting to do.
- d. We'll Naaman wanted to dip in one of the rivers that **HE** suggested.
- 1) God said, **Go to Jordan.**
 - 2) He said, "**Behold I thought....**"
- e. In **Isa. 55:8-9** God said, "**My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your thoughts.**"
- f. But just before He said that He said, "**Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him.**"
- 1) WHAT IS MAN GOING TO HAVE TO DO?
 - 2) He is going to have to **forsake** his thoughts.
 - i. Does that mean that we are to take leave of his senses, and **not use** the intelligence that God gave us?
 - ii. Of course not, because in the 1st ch. in the same book God said, "**Come now and let us reason together..**"
 - iii. God gave us intelligence and he wants us to use it in our relationship to Him **unless** we start thinking for him.
 - iv. The Only Way That God Is Ever Going to Accept You Back (if not faithful child) Is For You To Forsake **Your** Thoughts And For You to Think Like **God** Wants You to Think.
- g. Paul said in **2 Cor. 10 (3-5)** that the whole battle that we're

facing in the world is a **battle for the minds of people** to bring **every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.**

- 1) All we need to do in our teaching is to try to teach people to think like **God** wants them to think.
 - a) Not like I want them to think!
 - b) But to think like the **Lord** wants them to think!
- 2) And when they do that, they will **forsake their** thoughts, and that's what **Naaman** had to do.
- 3) At first, he was **angry** about what he was told to do and was about to go on his way when his servant said, "*If he had bid thou do some great thing would....*" "*How much rather when he said, wash and be clean.*"
 - a) That brought him to his senses...he saw his mistake.
 - b) The record says that he *went down and dipped himself seven times in the river Jordan according to the saying of the man of God. And his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child. And he was clean.*

6. Let me show you something.

- a. He said, GO AND DIP 7 TIMES
- b. That's 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
- c. Simple, isn't it?

- 1) Now which **one** of those dipping was more important than the others?
- 2) Somebody says, "**Don't be silly, Neither one**".
- 3) That's exactly right.
- 4) You can't **single out** any one of these numbers and say that that one is more important than any of the others.
 - a) You can't do that!

- b) People understand that you can't!
- 5) But a preacher of the gospel can tell (show) sinners that they have to **HEAR** the gospel of Christ, **BELIEVE** it, **REPENT** of his sins, **CONFESS** his faith in Christ, and be **BAPTIZED**, and somebody will go home and say, "**what I have heard all my life is correct – those people believe in WATER salvation.**"
 - a) They fail to see and report that being baptized was by no means all that was taught one must do to be saved.

- d. Somebody says, "Well you mean that you are not saved back here when you **believe**"?
 - 1) That is what just about everybody teaches, **except us.**
 - 2) No, you've got to complete your obedience to the last act which includes baptism "**For the remission of sins**".
 - 3) That is what the Bible says.
 - 4) Somebody says, "**I just don't see it!**"
 - a) Well, neither did Naaman see it the way God revealed it through the prophet.
 - b) Luckily for him his **servant** did.

7. Do you get the lesson?

- a. When we get up and point out a **series of acts of obedience that are scriptural and logical** in the process of obeying the Lord, teaching that man must **turn his back on sin, confess** his faith in the Lord, and be **baptized** for the remission of sins, we never single out **one** as being more important than another.
- b. We don't teach *salvation by faith only*, or *repentance only*, or *baptism only*.
- c. WE TEACH SALVATION AT THE POINT THAT THE ALIEN SINNER COMPLETES HIS OBEDIENCE TO THAT WHICH GOD COMMANDS HIM TO DO, IN THE ORDER THAT IS TAUGHT.
 - 1) Our denominational friends would say, "**One of these is the**

one that you say brings salvation!"

- 2) Yes, that is right.
- 3) But that doesn't mean that the other acts that **bring one to that point** where he may be baptized scripturally are not important.

8. Let's look back to the example of **Naaman** again:

a. At what point in Naaman's obedience was he cleansed?

1) When he dipped the 7th time.

2) That is what the Bible says.

b. Was the **7th** dipping more important than the other dips? **No!**

c. Had he not dipped **all the other times** he could not have dipped the 7th time.

d. You can't dip 7 times without first dipping the other **6**.

1) But the **7th** brought him cleansing because at that point he completed his obedience to what God had told him to do to be cleansed.

2) When he did it he became clean, but he had to dip the others to get to that point.

3) ALL THE OTHERS WERE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE LAST ONE.

9. Now wasn't that a foolish way to cure leprosy! **It was a foolish plan.**

a. Naaman got angry about it - **he didn't want to do it that way!**

b. But he **swallowed** his **pride** and **humbled** himself and **did** what God told him to do, or he would have continued to be a leper.

II. Now Let's Look at Some in The N.T. That Illustrates the Same Thing.

A. We read in **John Ch. 9** where Jesus met up with a man that had been **blind** all his life.

1. Could he not have just said, "**Be healed!**", and his eyes

would have opened?

- a. I'm sure that he could.
- b. But he didn't!
- c. He spit on the ground, stirred up the dust and made a little mud and put it on his eyes.
 - 1) Did any doctor ever go about it that way?
 - 2) Then he said, **"You go down there to the pool of Salome and wash that off"**.
 - 3) Well, who ever heard of putting clay on the **eyes** of a man born blind to cure him of his blindness.
 - 4) Well, the fellow went on down there, and he washed and he came seeing.
 - 5) Later the Jews got to complaining about it, they didn't want Jesus to get the credit... so they were complaining to him about **who did it**, and he said, **"I don't know"**.

2. These so-called **miracle workers**, when they fail, they lay it off on the **one to be healed** - they say, **"He didn't have enough faith!"**

- a. Well, the Lord did not always require faith.
- b. That is just a loophole to get out when they fail.
- c. This man didn't even know who Jesus was.
- d. They asked **who did it and he said, "I don't know!"**
 - 1) A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said, *"Go to the pool of Salome and wash..."*
 - 2) He said, *"So I went and washed and received sight."*
 - 3) He WENT, he WASHED and RECEIVED SIGHT.
 - 4) Foolish, isn't it? **But it worked!**

3. Was he cured by grace? **Yes.**

Was he cured by faith? **Yes.**

Was he cured by "Faith Only"?

- a. **No**, but it was a faith that led him to do what the Lord told him.
- b. But now a lot of preachers that I know and have heard if they had met him on the way they would have said, **"Where are you going?"**.
 - 1) Well, I'm going down to the pool and I'm going to wash, and if I do that a man said I could see.
 - 2) They would say **That's water healing!**
You've got to be healed by grace.
 - 3) You can only be healed by faith.
 - 4) You are trying to heal yourself by your own works.
 - 5) Let's just **kneel** here and pray your eyes open and then you go wash because you can see.
- c. Do you follow me?
 - 1) That is what they say about **baptism**.
 - 2) They **don't believe** what the **Lord** said about it.
 - 3) You let them **rearrange** it to suit themselves and they will claim to believe.
 - i. They don't believe what the Lord said (**Mk. 16:16**)
"He that believeth and is ..." They want it to read,
"He that believeth and is saved...."

B. We're talking about the Foolishness of God vs. Wisdom of Men.

- 1. Look at the picture of the Lord's church in the N.T.
- 2. Men don't like it - they don't want it the way Christ pictures it.
 - a. That's the reason we have **hundreds** instead of **one**.
 - b. They don't like the **one** the **Lord built** - they want to build one they way **they** like it.
 - c. That's what brought **every one of them** into existence.

d. If people had accepted the **Lord's ways**, and the lord's church, and the **Lord's will**, and the Lord's **thinking** about it, they would have just done what the Bible said, and we never would have had but **one church** on this earth.

i. But men don't like that!

3. Think about the N.T. church with its **elders** ruling over one cong. and **deacons**, and then think about rel. org. like the **Roman Catholic** church, governed by the **Pope** and Cardinals.

a. And the **Watchtower** Society that furnishes all the literature for their people, telling them **what** to believe, what **not** to believe, what to **do** and what **not** to do.

b. And then there are Baptist associations...

c. And the **7th Day Adv.** have their **headquarters** and on and on we could go.

d. Think about these org. and the fact that God's word says nothing about them, and you'll see how **men think** and how they **prefer their system** above that of God's.

C. Jesus told Pilot, "**My kingdom is not of this world**", but men are determined that is!

1. They look for a kingdom that is **earthly** and in which Christ will **reign** on **earth**.

2. But Christ reigns now over his spiritual kingdom - the **church**, but they are determined that it is not so even though **Col 1:13** says, "**Who has delivered us from**" (**Col. 1:13**).

D. If man had selected the mother for the Lord, he would have selected a queen or a wealthy woman, or a woman of prominence.

1. But God didn't!

2. He selected an unknown woman.

3. If man had done the announcing of the **birth of the Lord**, the Savior of the world, he might have had someone **shout it** from the panicle of the temple and make a **big to do** over it.
 - a. But the Lord didn't.
 - b. He had an angel appear to some shepherds out tending to their sheep, who announced that there was born in the city of David a savior...

E. God's ways just do not appeal to many people.

1. I've shown people that instrumental music is not authorized and shown O.T. examples illustrating the consequences of acting without authority and they still say, "**I just don't see anything wrong with it**".
2. I used to think that if the sign over the door said "**Church of Christ**" you could go in and hear and see basically the same things. Not so!
3. Brethren are doing things **without attempting to justify** it, and if questioned they say, "**I just don't see anything wrong with**" what ever their unscriptural practice is.
 - a. **They have a problem!**
 - b. It is what we're talking about - The **Foolishness of God vs....**
4. Everything that God's word teaches has been **reworked** by men who **think** they can do a **better job**...in devising the plan of salvation and doing the work of the church than the Lord could do.

F. If you had been going to select a monument or memorial by which the Lord would be remembered on this earth, what would you have done?

1. I'd have tried to **raise** a lot of **money** and have built something like the Washington monument or the Lincoln Memorial etc. - some magnificent structure.
2. I wouldn't have ever thought about a little piece of bread

and some grape juice.

- a. If someone had mentioned it, I'd have said, **"That is too cheap, that too insignificant"**.
- b. But it isn't!
- c. We'd all have to go to some place to see the monument...
 - 1) But you don't the Lord's supper.
 - 2) Anybody that has enough to live on can provide bread and grape juice.
 - 3) And we all observe it alike.

Conc.

- A. If you've learned anything in this lesson, I hope that you've learned that we **"Walk by faith, not by sight"** ...learned that you don't have the ability to guide yourself in spiritual ways.
 1. The Bible says **"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"** (**Jer. 10:23**).
 2. Now we can make a living - we can farm, or build a house, or teach school, or whatever to make a living and God is not concerned with how we do that, so long as we do it honestly.
 - a. But when we start to heaven, we **better consult** the **blueprint** that the Lord has given.
 - b. And not be guilty of saying, "I know it says that but..." or **"Behold I thought..."** -- that is not the lesson that we have learned.
- B. People read (or we point out) where Jesus said, **"He that believeth and is baptized..."**, and they say, "I know it says that, but..."
 1. And if they make any argument at all they most likely would quote Paul saying, **"Not of works lest any man should boast"**.
 2. Can you imagine someone coming up from the water and saying, **"Look what I've done!"** ...boasting about such a thing?

- a. I've seen people cry.
 - b. Baptized one man who said, "**Thank you Jesus...!**".
 - 1) He didn't think he or I had done anything.
 - 2) He gave the credit to the Lord.
 - c. There is nothing to boast about!
3. Do you see the wisdom in **baptism** being chosen as the last step to get into Christ?
- a. There is no way for a man to boast about that, he doesn't even do it himself.
 - b. It is **foolishness** to many people.
 - c. But you **must** be baptized to be saved.
 - d. God said to do it - you must believe and obey it.
 - e. And it is **not** to show that you have **received** remission of sins when you believed or prayed through as many teach.
 - f. It is to be done "**for the remission of sins**" (**Acts 2:38**).
 - g. If you weren't baptized for this reason you're not scripturally baptized and haven't obeyed the gospel to be saved.

Invitation:

You can obey the gospel today, just like the Ethiopian Eunuch did after he was taught about Jesus, which evidently included teaching about the necessity of being baptized. He said, "**see, here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?**" Phillip said, (Acts 8:37) **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

This sermon was developed from one I heard Eugene Britnell preach at Big Flat Arkansas in the early 80's.

Robert Waters