

## STUDY GUIDE

**Monday, June 13 - Read 1 Corinthians 1:25.** The message of Christ's death for sins sound foolish to those who don't believe. Death seems to be the end of the road, the ultimate weakness. But Jesus did not stay dead. His resurrection demonstrated his power even over death. And He will save us from eternal death and give us everlasting life if we trust him as Savior and Lord. This sounds so simple that many people will not accept it. They try other ways to obtain eternal life (being good, being wise, etc.) But all their attempts are futile. The "foolish" people who simply accept Christ's offer are actually wisest of all, because they alone will live eternally with God.

**Tuesday, June 14 - Read 1 Corinthians 28-31.** Paul continues to emphasize that the way to receive salvation is so simple that any person who wants to can understand it. Skill and wisdom do not get a person into God's Kingdom - simple faith does. So no one can boast that personal achievements helped him or her secure eternal life. Salvation is totally from God through Jesus' death. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation; we need only to accept what Jesus has already done for us. God is our source and the reason for our personal relationship with Christ. Our union and identification with Christ results in our having God's wisdom (Colossians 2:3), being acceptable to God (2 Corinthians 5:21), being pure (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7), and having the penalty for our sins paid by Jesus (Mark 10:45).

**Wednesday, June 15- Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.** A brilliant scholar, Paul could have overwhelmed his listeners with intellectual arguments. Instead, he shared the simple message of Jesus Christ by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide his words. In sharing the Good News with others, we should follow Paul's example and keep our message simple and basic. The Holy Spirit will give power to our words and use them to bring glory to Jesus. Paul's confidence was not in his keen intellect or speaking ability but in his knowledge that the Holy Spirit was helping him and guiding him. Paul is not denying the importance of study and preparation for preaching; he had a thorough education in scriptures. Paul's statement in verse 4 should not be used by anyone as an excuse not to study or prepare.

**Thursday, June 16 - Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-8.** God's "secret wisdom... which was hidden" was his offer of salvation to all people. Originally unknown to humanity, this plan became crystal clear when Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection proved that had power over sin and death and could offer us this power as well (see 1 Peter 1:10-12 and Romans 16:25-27). God's plan, however, is still hidden to unbelievers because they either refuse to accept it, choose to ignore it, or simply haven't heard about it. Jesus was misunderstood and rejected by those whom the world considered wise and great. He was put to death by the rulers in Palestine - the high priest, King Herod, Pilate, and the Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus' rejection by these rulers had been predicted in Isaiah 53:3 and Zechariah 12:10-11.

**Friday, June 17 - Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-13.** We cannot imagine all that God has in store for us, both in this life and for eternity. He will create a new heaven and a new earth, and we will live with him forever. Until then, his Holy Spirit comforts and guides us. Knowing the wonderful and eternal future that awaits us gives us hope and courage to press on in this life, to endure hardship, and to avoid giving into temptation. This world is not all there is: the best is yet to come. "God's deep secrets" refers to God's unfathomable nature and his wonderful plan - Jesus' death and resurrection - and to the promise of salvation, revealed only to those who believe that what God says is true. Those who believe in Christ's death and resurrection and put their faith in him will know all they need to know to be saved. This knowledge, however, can't be grasped by even the wisest people unless they accept God's message. All who reject God's message are foolish, no matter how wise the world thinks they are.

**Saturday, June 18 - Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16.** Non-Christians cannot understand spiritual truths, and they cannot grasp the concept that God's spirit lives in believers. Don't expect most people to approve of or understand your decision to follow Christ. It all seems so silly to them. Just as a tone-deaf person cannot appreciate fine music, the person who rejects Christ cannot understand truths from God's Spirit. With the lines of communication broken, he or she won't be able to hear what God is saying to him or her. No one can know what the Lord is thinking, but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, believers have insight into some of God's plans, thoughts, and actions. They, in fact, have "the mind of Christ." Through the Holy Spirit, we can begin to know God's thoughts, talk with him, and expect his answers to our prayers. Are you spending enough time with Christ to have his very mind in you? An intimate relationship with Christ comes only from spending time consistently in his presence and in his Word.