

Peter was a Christian. He loved Jesus and he loved his fellowman. One of his biggest joys was simply knowing that he could contribute to the spread of God's very kingdom, whether by doing jobs here and there around his local church or by giving offerings. It gave his life meaning and purpose.

One day, Peter got sick, very sick. Chances were he would not live through it. He was in and out of the hospital. He had to use a wheelchair. He even ended up stuck at home with a nurse who had to check on him every day. In addition to that, a lot of the money that he had was eaten up by his medical expenses and now, not only was he unable to give much to his church, but now he had to depend on others giving him money.

But the worst part was not the physical pain, it wasn't the loss of his freedom or his money, the worst part was that he felt useless. He wasn't able to serve others. He felt he wasn't able to serve God. He felt like he was a burden. It seemed like he was just waiting to die. He prayed that God would just take him home but God seemed to not be hearing that prayer.

That's where Peter was when his friend Christopher talked to him. Peter explained how he felt and Christopher listened to his struggles. After hearing him out, Christopher was silent for a while. Then Christopher said something that Peter never expected.

He said, "Peter, I think you're starting to understand what it means to serve Jesus." Seeing Peter's confused look, Christopher continued, "You did a lot of good in your life, a lot that God is proud to see, but I think you may have fallen into a temptation there. It's easy for Christians to get caught up in doing the good they ought to and to forget where the good we do comes from. John 6:29 tells us that *'the work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'* With your sickness, God has given you a great opportunity to lose the distractions of what you are able to do, and instead all you can do is trust God. That's really what it means to serve him."

Today as we take a closer look at 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, we find that the Worst Christians are the Best. It's not the great human beings that God chooses to be his

---

people. It's not the celebrities, not the world leaders, not those who have great wealth or influence. God instead gives eternal life to the meek, the weak, the foolish, and those who are nothing. These may seem the worst choices, but God chooses the weak in the world so that he can clearly show his strength.

Remember how sin entered the world? God told Adam and Eve that if they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die. Then Satan came along in the form of a serpent and told Adam and Eve that they wouldn't die but they would become like God. So Adam and Eve disobeyed God and from then on all people have been sinful.

You see the part that pride played there? God had given his people a way for them to learn about good and evil, but Adam and Eve wanted to figure it out their own way, rather than God's way.

Then, when Adam and Eve had messed everything up, God promised to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. That was Jesus. And what did Adam and Eve have to do to be saved at that point? Nothing, They just trusted in God's promise.

This is how salvation has always come to people. God sent Jesus Christ that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life. This is God's way for salvation. But sinful humans have always preferred, just like in the garden to do things their way.

So you see people who want to earn heaven on their own by being good. You see people wanting to earn salvation on their own by their own wisdom and figuring out the truth for themselves. The problem with all these methods is that they take the work of salvation away from God and put it on ourselves. They give us something to boast about in ourselves instead of giving all the glory to God.

But God's way for our salvation is through faith alone. We are saved by trusting that what Jesus did for our salvation is enough and we do not need to add anything. We do not need to be more perfect than Jesus was. We do not need to make any more sacrifice than Jesus made. And to think that would be an insult to both Jesus' perfection and his sacrifice. In God's way of salvation, he does all the work and he gets all the glory.

---

But trusting in Jesus is not only how we are saved, it's also how we live as Christians. Trusting in God's way of doing things has always been what it means to serve God. Look at 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Paul has the believers in Corinth look at themselves as an example of God's way of doing things.

By the world's standards, the Corinthians were the worst choice to be God's people. They did not have a lot to offer. Most of them were average joes or below average joes. They weren't millionaires. They weren't influential world leaders. They weren't the most brilliant group of people. What could they possibly do for God?

But God chose them to inherit salvation. God specifically chose this group who could offer him nothing, so that he could keep doing the work of his kingdom through them, so that he still gets the glory! More than that, God specifically chose those nobodies in order to shame those who, in the world's eyes, were capable of so much more. God chose the nobodies because all they could do was trust in God's way of doing things, rather than their own.

The Corinthian Christians had nothing to be proud about in themselves, but whatever God accomplished in their midst, they could only say that God had done it. That doesn't mean that they sat around and did nothing. Instead, what that means is that they lived trusting in God's way of doing things, rather than in trusting their own way of doing things. They lived their lives according to God's way of doing things, rather than figuring out their own way of doing things.

Even though the world may have thought of these people as the worst Christians because they had so little to offer, God saw them as the best because God could clearly show his power among them. Whatever God did among them, no one would mistake it as something they themselves had accomplished.

This is how God still operates. God chooses the weak people so that he can show his strength and prove how useless our human strength really is. God chooses the foolish people so that he can show his wisdom and prove how useless our human wisdom is.

Just look at our congregation here. The world might say, "If God really wanted his kingdom to grow, he should have filled this congregation with young,

---

vibrant, outgoing people who could get out and spread the word.” But that’s not the congregation we have. The world may look at us and say that our church doesn’t have a lot to offer, but God looks at us and he sees faith. He sees people who will trust in him and in his way of doing things. He sees a place where he can do his work and keep the glory he deserves.

This is what it means to live as Christians. When we fall into hard times where we cannot do anything, our faith can look to Christ alone. When we are no longer able to rely on our own strength, and when we lean totally on Jesus, then he can show his true strength. In the same way that trusting in Jesus alone for our salvation shows us his almighty power to save us, so trusting in Jesus alone to get us through our daily lives will show us his almighty power to preserve us until we reach heaven.

And so we trust our God, no matter where we are in life. Strong or weak, we consider ourselves weak, so that we might trust alone in God’s power to save and bless. Wise or foolish, we consider ourselves foolish, so that we might learn in God’s wisdom. Whether we are something or not, we consider ourselves to be nothing, so that God might work something real within us.

In this way, we learn to trust in God alone for everything we need. We learn to face even our sufferings as a gift from our God which is pushing us closer to heaven. We learn to recognize our blessings as generous gifts from our God and we accept them with gratitude and joy, living thankful lives.

That’s what Paul is saying at the end there. ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’ It comes down to whatever situation I am in, I look to God for blessing, I follow the path he has told me in his word. And I trust God to do things his way. When I am weak, surely, he is strong. Amen.