

1Corinthians 18-01-21a

Good morning, this is Sunday, the 21st of January, 2018. We continue our study of the wonderful book of 1 Corinthians. We'll be resuming in chapter 2. Let's take a moment as we prepare ourselves for the study of God's word to go to the Lord in prayer, ensure that our hearts are receptive, that God the Holy Spirit is able to be our teacher and interpreter, and that the portion of God's word we look at this morning, portions, actually we're going to be several places, will be meaningful and helpful to us in moving forward with what remains to us in this life.

Shall we pray? Father, we're grateful for this day and the many blessings that you have bestowed on us. We thank you for your grace, your faithfulness toward us. We are variable, but you are constant.

We are fallible, but you are consistent and perfect in your righteousness and in the accomplishment of your plans and purposes. And we're so grateful that through the Lord Jesus Christ, we are related to you and have the privilege of coming before you to represent ourselves and express our heart's desires and our recognition of the many wonderful things that you've done for us. We pray that as we study your word together this morning, that the Holy Spirit will illuminate it, will transcend the limitations of the communicator, and will enable all of us to see clearly these things that are so important to the strength of our souls and our walk before you, so that our lives will reflect your glory and enable others to see Christ in us and be drawn to you and to him.

We pray that we can bear that fruit of the spirit that reflects our hope, that we can sustain our objective point of view and recognize our place in your plan, even as we navigate the challenges that we face on a day-to-day basis. Again, we thank you for these wonderful opportunities that are ours in Christ, and we pray that our lives can reflect his glory. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen. As I said, we are going to be in 1 Corinthians chapter 2. It's been a week or two. I had a wonderful encounter with some of the smallest life forms on the planet last week, and as they like to say about the Marine Corps, you know, you meet new and interesting organisms and then kill them.

And thankfully, I think I've left that encounter behind. But it's been a little while. Let's just pick up our context in the middle of chapter 1 in verse 21.

Since in the wisdom of God, the world, through wisdom, did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. And that kind of sums up. I'm not going to read the rest of the chapter.

We'll pick up in chapter 2. But that sums up. If you think about it, there are three strikes against the gospel, and Paul has summarized them in chapter 1. And they're actually sort of distilled here in verse 21. In the wisdom of God, the world, through wisdom, does not know God.

It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe, those who are believing. And there are three elements there. First of all, the message of the cross, the content of it, seems foolish to those who aren't looking for it.

Those who receive it. Remember, he goes on in the chapter, not many wise are called, not many mighty, you know, look at yourselves. If God was going to try to impress people, why did he pick you? Why didn't he pick the, you know, the erudite, the accomplished, the strong, the admirable, the attractive? And there are some, you know, there are a few, but not many mighty are called, not many wise, because God has chosen the apparent foolishness of the message as a filter.

If you're a smart guy looking for smart things, and you're trying to find a smart religion, you're not going to get to God on that basis. And so the message is foolish. The people who receive that message appear foolish and are accused of being foolish on a regular basis.

You haven't lived till atheists have told you what a nutcase you are for believing in Christ. So the message is foolish. The people are foolish.

And the method of communication is foolish. Paul says, he says, my preaching was terrible. I didn't come to you with great swelling words of wisdom.

I didn't come to you with a great presentation and a powerful personal charisma. I came to you in weakness and fear and trembling. And, you know, I'm a short, bald Jew with a squeaky voice and a hooked nose, according to early church tradition.

And, you know, people who are looking for the stentorian voices of the Greek orators to come in and present this beautifully couched piece of wisdom are sorely disappointed when this guy shows up. And you remember, this was what caused the part of what caused the Jews to stumble in Jesus day. And when they were looking for the Messiah, they were looking for a Solomonic figure of regal proportions who enters, you know, surrounded by a retinue and is ready to push back the Romans and reestablish the kingdom.

And here's a very modest, humble individual from Galilee with no credentials. His birth seems under a cloud. His origins are murky.

His education is dubious. His personal presence was evidently not impressive. The Pharisees kept trying to find fault with his message.

And in the same way, the message that the Lord Jesus brought in anticipation of the cross seemed foolish to those who counted themselves wise. His personal presence and presentation didn't impress the worldly. Who did it impress? Those who were looking.

Because the content of the message, the recipients of the message, and the nature of the delivery of the message, those three things. What it's about, how it is delivered, and who is receiving it are on a different channel. We're using a different kind of radio.

I was fascinated as a kid, as most of you know, by shortwave. And we moved out to Oklahoma and grew up in the hills. And, you know, it was a simpler time.

No internet, limited. We had like three stations on television. And we just didn't spend that much time.

But my dad bought a Zenith trans-oceanic shortwave radio. It's one of the classic shortwave receivers of all time. And he got a deal on one that was used.

And at the time, it was an enormous amount. And I was so grateful to my dad. But he knew how my mind worked and the kind of interest that I had.

And he found this Zenith shortwave. And he later on got a shortwave from Matt as well. Matt had a shortwave.

And I had one. But out in the barn there in my room, I got the antenna stuck in the window. And suddenly, I'm listening to things that other people can't access.

You go in the house, there's no way to tune these in. I'm listening to the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Havana, Cuba and the time synchronization signal from Fort Collins, Colorado and HCJB and Quito, Ecuador heralding Christ Jesus' blessings, HCJB. And we actually knew a couple.

We had lived next door to a couple in California who had left the church we all attended and gone to Quito, Ecuador and become a part of that station. And our assistant pastor, Travis Gallen and his wife and his sons, who were my good friends, all moved to Ecuador. They went to language school and learned Spanish and went down there.

And I could actually hear Travis. He had a program called the Cracker Barrel where he would sit around and tell stories. And they would eventually lead to kind of a gospel message.

And I could hear way down in South America in the mountains of Ecuador, here are these people that I knew and voices that I recognized on this shortwave radio. But if you weren't tuned in to those frequencies, if you didn't have the desire to hear those signals and explore that world and didn't go get yourself a radio, you're not going to pick it up in the fillings of your teeth. You're not going to find it on your AM dial in your car.

You're not going to see it anywhere. You have to be looking. You have to say, I know there's a message out there.

Let me pursue it and find it and enjoy it and explore it. This is Paul's point here in 1 Corinthians. Do not expect people that say, I don't believe in shortwave radio.

And I certainly don't believe any of the news that you claim that you've heard on it. Oh, and by the way, I was glad I was a shortwave aficionado later when I was a Marine and went to Lebanon because I got a little compact Sony shortwave. I picked it up in a store and I was able

to get objective news from those same sources.

I knew the frequencies for the Voice of America and for BBC World Service and to hear how the world was understanding events that I was witnessing, how they were being reported and what the world knew about what we were involved in and doing was quite fascinating because our television news at that time was delayed a full day. And so we would see Dan Rather and the nightly news from the TV services 24 hours later. And back then, that's how long it took to get the information across.

But I could get it in real time and the contrast between what I would see and there were reporters infiltrated around and sending reports back. What I knew was going on and what I saw and what I was a part of and witness and these reporters sending their stories back. And then to hear it reported forever destroyed my faith in news reporting because so often they didn't understand what they were looking at or they would get bits and pieces.

And as we have been talking about recently, just one fact can completely change your view of a situation. Somebody can tell you nine things about a particular circumstance and you interpret that and say, oh, well, I guess so-and-so just has an attitude toward me or about me is including me out or is feeling, we can put together several facts and interpret it and say, well, I guess this is what somebody is thinking and feeling and doing. And then we get one more fact.

Oh, there's an illness in the family. So maybe that's why they didn't return my call. That's why their phone got dropped in the water.

And so they're not ignoring me. They don't know I'm trying to get ahold of them. One fact can completely change your impression and your understanding.

And so we want to be humble and be cautious about attributing motives, understanding, attitudes in others when we may be at enough of a distance that we just don't have all the facts. And we can prayerfully take these things before the Lord and a soft answer turns away wrath. And if we think things are not all happy and joyful and positive, to be cautious and be measured and not overreact.

I have been guilty many times of putting something down and then someone moves it. And I go back to get it and it's not there. And I became immediately impatient and mildly put out that, you know, why did you mess with my stuff? Then about a minute later, I realized, oh, wait, that was me that moved that.

I remember now I picked it up and moved it over here. And I've falsely gotten a whole case built in my mind that isn't based on facts and that one additional fact can change the whole thing. Well, bear in mind that the world looking at the message of the cross is going to find it foolish because there are some missing elements in their perception.

The delivery of that message, the foolishness of preaching that ends up saving those who believe, you know, the foolishness of us sharing. Atheists often demand, you know, if God

wants me to believe it, He needs to come to me. I don't want to get this secondhand information.

Paul says it's through the foolishness of us talking to each other. We share, all of us are descendants going back centuries of one person sharing with another the good news of Jesus Christ. The words on these pages are shared to us, not by angels and not by God, by human beings.

The first ones to receive the message, the ones who saw Christ and walked with Christ. They are eyewitnesses of these things. They have shared them and we down through the centuries, through the foolishness of preaching, come to knowledge and come to faith.

Because on that channel, with that content, we seemingly unwise people. Why would you take secondhand testimony of events that happened 2,000 years ago and longer uh, it's a nutty message. It's given in a nutty way.

And you're a nutty person to believe. It's three strikes against it. But if you're out there in the barn, 1130 PM, and you're flipping that dial and you get this wonderful, strong signal from Britain.

And there's a big old tower over there. And these wonderful, you know, you could listen to the phone book being read by somebody with a good British accent. It's just, they just, they sound smarter than us.

But once you've tuned that in and heard it for yourself, people who don't know or don't care. You can imagine there'd be people in Arkansas and say, short wave. What's that? Is that like wind on the pond? Short wave.

I don't understand what a short wave is and wouldn't believe it. If you listen and you have absorbed that content and it is, uh, it communicates on a different channel. And you're never going to make somebody understand that isn't seeking.

Dr. Criswell has a sermon in the title of it. He, he's one of those that's gifted with distilling something into a, into a phrase, particularly the sermon titles. He had one called the Magnetic Christ, which the first image that comes to my mind is something that would stick in the fridge.

But, uh, he is talking about the passage where Jesus says, if I'd be lifted up, I will draw all men to me. Well, you think about a magnet. There's only certain things that it draws.

You have to already be made of iron or steel before a magnet is going to draw you. And what people often don't understand is we decide what we're made of. We decide if the sunshine is going to melt us like butter or hardness like adobe brick.

Uh, we choose what we are made of. So that's the, that's the point here. And in verse 21, you have all three elements, uh, the foolishness of the message, the foolishness of preaching and

the evident foolishness of those who believe.

Well, how can you believe when you've got no evidence? It's, it's easy to destroy that argument. Uh, most of the people who believe what they believe about scientific and materialistic explanations for the world. When's the last time they ever dug up a bone or look through a microscope or, uh, you know, operated the Hubble.

They're taking everything from messengers to whom they ascribe authority. And they say, well, obviously these people wouldn't lie, which is what I say about the disciples. But what exactly did they gain? They all pretty much got killed for their trouble.

They didn't get rich. They didn't get, uh, emoluments. They were persecuted.

They were hounded. The first generations of Christians were slaughtered by the thousands. Uh, it wasn't like a, uh, a Ponzi scheme or some other get rich quick thing that, Oh, well, let's do this because look how far ahead we're going to get.

It's in a different realm. It's on a different channel. It operates, uh, and those who are seeking are going to find it.

So we pick up now in chapter two. I brethren, when I came to you, I did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom. You remember the two general categories.

People are either looking for power. The Jews are seeking a sign, you know, show me that you've got power, uh, and, and it's power that's going to benefit me. Give us this bread.

Always part this sea for me. Always make a, you know, help me get where I want to go and do what I want to do and have what I want to have. Um, and the Jews who are seeking a sign, they want power to accomplish their purposes.

Let's get these Romans out of here. This was the temptation that Satan put before Jesus. Uh, if you'll fall down and worship, I'll give you power.

All of these kingdoms can be yours. Uh, use God's power to accomplish your own goals. Turn some rocks into food.

Could it, could Jesus have done that? That he had the power to do it? Why didn't he? It seems like a small thing. Turn a rock into a pita bread. What's, what's the harm? It is not the application of God's power for God's purpose.

I'm having a debate with a guy. I need to prove a point. Oh God, you know, it's not like Elijah giving a demonstration of God's power on Mount Carmel because there are people looking on who can make a decision.

You think Satan is at a point of, well, you know, if you really do turn the rock into bread, I, I'm going to have to reconsider my whole attitude toward God. There's, there's no upside to

implementing God's power at Satan's behest. Satan says, turn a rock into bread and you say, okay, for any reason, who's the initiator here? You've suddenly subordinated the power of God to a satanic purpose, whatever it might be.

And we have to really be careful. Anytime there is power involved that we are looking to God and looking to operate within the parameters and the goals of his plan and purpose and not taking what we know or what we have become or what God has, has done in us and for us and redirected it, perverted. So power is one thing, wisdom is another, and it's easy to start, uh, I've quoted this thing before where, uh, you know, if you get into a, uh, argument with, with a fool, he'll drag you down to his level and then beat you with experience and to walk into a situation where somebody else has picked the battlefield and is forcing you to play by their rules.

Well, we're, we're scientific materialists. So, uh, if you're going to demonstrate any reality to us, we're going to need some scientific evidence. Oh, guess what? Creation is not science.

Uh, intelligent design is not science. Uh, you know, your faith and all that. It's not scientific.

You can't, it's, it's inaccessible to science. Therefore it does not exist. And if you try to say, well, but there is science for God.

I mean, you have to be careful. It's one thing to defend the reasonability of our faith. But if you begin to think I can prove something or I can, uh, I can argue on your terms with your presuppositions, it's going to fail because it's the wisdom of the world and God's wisdom seems foolish to the world and they're not going to get it.

So there's only a limited amount. I, I limit myself to debate that says my, you know, you claim that the message is unreasonable. The delivery is unreasonable.

Oh, you've got this book that's written by a bunch of raggedy shepherds and they were illiterate and mystical. And you know, they, they argued with the preaching as well as the content. And then you're stupid to believe it.

And what's the matter with you? Are you benighted and uneducated? And you can defend as Paul does here, it may seem foolish, but it's not. Preaching may seem foolish, but it's not. People who believe may seem foolish, but they're not.

And you can defend the reasonability of the message and the delivery and the people. But if you try to convert, if you try to pull somebody over to believe, or if you think that by defending its reasonability, you're going to do anything other than maybe remove a few obstacles to faith for those who are seeking, it's a waste of time because those who have chosen not to believe, you know, the Pharaoh of Egypt saw all 10 of the plagues and he didn't become a believer in God. Um, Pharisees witnessed Jesus performing miracles on people lame from birth, blind from birth, deaf from birth, saw Lazarus walk out of the tomb, and all they could think about is we've got to kill this guy.

He's, he's a disruption. He's, he's, he's a threat. Not seeking.

If there's not that seeking note, and I'm back to Dr. Griswold's great titles. He has another, uh, sermon called the seeking note. And this is what we're going to talk about this morning because look at chapter two.

I, brethren, when I came to you did not come with excellence of speech or wisdom, declaring to you the testimony of God. I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. The Messiah of Israel longed for and anticipated for centuries dead, executed as a criminal.

That's my message. Oh boy, we're going to really pack them into the stadiums now. And yet, uh, the, and the delivery.

I was with you in weakness and fear and much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power. In the earliest days, there were miraculous moments where the spirit would descend and people would speak in other languages.

Uh, there were a limited number of healings like Peter and John do on the steps of the temple, but relatively little. The demonstration of the spirit and his power is in the baptism of the spirit, which fell upon those who believe and they, because they were seeking and because they accepted by faith, the message preached, experienced the demonstration. This was largely a personal experience of power.

It's, there are manifestations of it so that we know what it is in this first generation so that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. And this is the core, the power of God, not the power of God to be the genie of the lamp and grant my wishes, the power of God to do what most needs doing, which is the saving of my soul, the healing of my corruption and my fallenness, the reconciliation of us to God, the avenue of escape from our sin and our sinful nature, the glue that binds us together as the people of God and as brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the power of God.

It is something no power on earth can accomplish. Verse six, we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, not the wisdom of this age, nor the rumors of this age who are coming to nothing, but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom of God ordained before the ages for our glory, ordained before the ages, predetermined before the ages for our glory. Notice it's not us who are predetermined before the ages.

It's the wisdom. God ordained the wisdom. God ordained the content.

God ordained the plan and purpose of salvation. This is the Lord Jesus as you find him pictured a couple of times in Revelation, the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. There is calling and destiny by category, not by individual.

This is what Calvinists don't understand. They want to take predestination and they want to take effectual calling and so forth and make it individual. And it's not individual.

It is by category. God said before the ages in his wisdom, I will have a people Israel and this is how I will provide for them. I will start with one man Abraham and I will demonstrate the power of choice.

It isn't the destiny of being born first. It would have been a lot easier if God was going to illustrate predestination and effectual calling and the election and all the rest of it to just stick with the birth order. If Isaac is going to be the chosen, then just have him be born first.

It's within God's power. Why does God have the younger son as the master and the elder son serve him? Why is it that the system that God established of the firstborn son inheriting get swapped? Why would God do that? If he just wants to show his might and his power and say, look, firstborn son. There he is.

There he goes. And there you are. And Jacob is going to be the firstborn son and he's going to be there.

But Isaac is the younger son. Ishmael was first. And yet Isaac is the one in whom Abraham's seed was called.

Same thing with Jacob. He's the younger twin. But he ends up getting the inheritance.

And why does God bother to do that? Is it just an elaborate puppet show? Or is it a demonstration of the very opposite? Destiny says you're the firstborn. You inherit. God says it is the children of promise who are going to inherit.

And a child of promise is somebody who looks at the promise, wants the promise, is seeking the God who made the promise. And the reason I'm elaborating this a little bit is if you go back to verse 24, to those who are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. In Christ, what seems to be the foolishness of the message is reconciled.

In Christ, the delivery of the message is reconciled. And in Christ, the people who seem foolish to accept it are reconciled. The Lord Jesus Christ, in him, these things are suddenly revealed to not be foolish at all, not be limited at all, not be weak at all.

But just as Jesus Christ himself has been woefully underestimated, underappreciated, unreceived even by his own, he came into his own and his own didn't receive him. Why? He seemed like a foolish choice. He seemed like a foolish man.

But to those who are seeking, he's anything but. Well, this idea of calling is something we want to look at. So that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God, your faith.

So we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, not the wisdom of this age, not the

wisdom of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. Coming to nothing. I was talking with my mother and my sister, and we were talking about how people who made the right investments early on, you know, if you bought Microsoft in the early days, if you bought Apple in the early days, they had different ones.

And I knew some individuals who were entrepreneurs and were trying to see what was coming technology-wise back in the early 80s. And my own grandpa saw that communication technology was coming. So he got very interested.

And if you had been an early investor in cell phones, you know, look what cell phones have done since they came out. Well, my grandpa had the right idea. He saw, I knew another guy, John Martin down in Dallas.

They were wonderful friends to Patty and me in early days. And then he saw it coming. And so he had a small company and he was going to get into the business.

And he heavily invested himself in providing the lines of communication for what would become the Internet. And he saw it clearly and he was aiming for it. But other big companies with deep pockets saw it as well.

And they absolutely forced him out. They just elbowed him out of the way. They outmaneuvered him because they had more money.

They had more resources. And even though he legitimately had contracts with companies and was setting up services, he could have been a billionaire because he was trying to do what is now commonplace. He was in the business of setting it up.

Well, big corporations came in and just squashed and mashed the small guys. And it was completely unfair. And in some ways it was illegal.

But he had no way to stop it. He was just pushed out of the room by the big guys. My grandpa saw communications coming and thought, this is something we've got to invest in.

But he missed the specific. He thought satellite phones were going to be the thing. So he was trying to get into satellite phones.

And at the time, everybody thought, well, sure, look at how television can now remote us a signal from the far parts of the world. And those of us who are old enough to remember, they'd have a computer, a reporter off in some far off continent reporting on a natural disaster or something. And they'd say, David Brinkley or Chet Huntley or somebody would get on there and say, well, Bob, what's the situation there in Bangkok, Thailand? Tick, tock, tick, tock.

And about six seconds later, after it took three seconds for the signal to bounce off the satellite and get there, the guy to hear the question, answer the question, and another three seconds for it to come all the way back on the satellite. And so there were these huge delays. And they

would get impatient and start talking over each other.

And the interview would be twice as long. But everybody thought satellites were the coming thing. This is how we're going to have long distance.

This is how we're going to have mobility. It's all satellites. People invested millions in satellites and then lost their shirts when the cell network came along, uses a different means of communication.

And now you get your internet and you get your phone service and all the rest of it. Your GPS network is another example. People didn't see that coming and invested heavily.

We used to have the position azimuth detection system, PADS, in the Marine Corps, which was a hugely expensive, multimillion-dollar system. It was jeep-mounted. And you would start at a survey point.

And it had gyroscopes and things. And they could sense how far you had moved. And you could go for miles and then stop and say, OK, here's your exact latitude and your exact longitude.

People invested millions in this technology. Well, as soon as they finished hanging the satellites and got GPS, that is boat anchor. It's too heavy for a boat anchor.

It's utterly and completely useless. It's immediately obsolete. As soon as they got that in place, all you need to do is receive three or four signals from satellites.

And you know exactly where you are. It's cheap. It's free.

Nothing has to move. You don't have to have a survey to start with. And now you look at Google Maps.

And we just take it for granted that the dot is going to move on the map when you look at yourself on your phone at 80 miles an hour, or however fast you drive, with GPS. Well, anybody that didn't see that specific thing coming, the wisdom of men might say satellites the next thing. Pads is the next thing.

All these other technologies, you know, the Betamax video is the next big thing. And it's so easy to be wrong. The wisdom of God is unchanging.

It is transcendent. It was established and completed before the foundation of the world, before the ages began. It's not subject to the vagaries of circumstance and happenstance and human power, human wisdom, human failure, human sinfulness and evil, as so many investments are in this life.

You can do everything right. And one bad circumstance can destroy your career, destroy your life. Somebody else's inattention, drunk driver crosses the center line.

Everything changes. The power of God is something different, and it operates in realms that human wisdom cannot touch. I don't think I've ever been more impressed.

I've seen a lot of impressive things in my life. But I saw something last night, and I'll leave you with this before we go to the break. For whatever reason, Patty happened to turn on the Trinity Broadcast Network, and Governor Huckabee has a program on every so often.

Well, we've hit some kind of anniversary for Roe v. Wade, and so he was talking about the whole issue of abortion and the impact that it has had on society, what it does in individual lives, how many children have lost their lives in what ought to be the safest place on earth, their mother's womb. It's the most dangerous because they're the most likely to die there of almost any cause. But what struck me most was he interviewed a girl, and I apologize, I can't remember her name, something like Jenna Gianna or something close to that.

But her mother went in for a saline abortion, where at like the seven and a half month mark or whatever, they inject salt water in there, and it basically chemically burns the baby inside and out and causes it to die. And then they wait for it to be born dead. Well, this particular baby did not die.

And so at six o'clock in the morning, the baby was born. It was supposed to be dead, but it wasn't. And the abortion doctor had not yet come in because it was so early.

And the nurse who delivered the baby and saw that it was still alive, called an ambulance and had it sent to the hospital. And this was this girl. Well, because of the oxygen deprivation, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

And so she was shuffling around between foster care and was just thought to be a lump and had no hope. But if you listen to this girl talk, she is bright, she's intelligent, and her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is really something to behold. And her spirit, her attitude, and her opportunity to talk about that particular issue is a case where cursing has been turned to blessing.

And the evident power of God in her life is not something you're going to find in science. It's not something you're going to find in any other religion. Search the Internet and see if you can find somebody in Islam who says, here's how the power of Allah came into my life after I was nearly aborted.

Go to Buddhism or Jainism or Hinduism or any other ism you want to name. You never find people with the power of the message, the power of the communication, and the power in the lives of those who are looking for it and receive it. It is unique.

That's what Paul is talking about here. And when you see it and when you receive it, it is a reality that connects to our reality sensor in our soul. We think that reality often must be seen or heard or felt or documented by science in some fashion.

But we have another reality sensor, a knowledge of what is true. It's a part of the conscience.

It's part of the eternal that God puts in our hearts.

And if you are looking for truth, when that message communicated by that means to those seeking people hits, that is the call. That is the calling that you see mentioned in verse 24. Calling is not an effectual dragging into a new situation that God does to people.

The call is the shortwave message that goes out and it is effectively filtered. People that are looking for the wrong thing are never going to find it. If you're demanding BBC on your AM dial, you're not going to find it.

If you demand that your local Claremore station have a guy with a British accent to satisfy you that the news is good, you're not going to find it. If you set criteria and say, well, if I'm going to listen to it, it's got to be at this place at this time in this fashion. And it's got to be something that I find useful for my purposes.

That's a real effective filter. Those people who are looking for the wrong thing coming from the wrong place for the wrong reasons are never going to find it and you will never satisfy them. Put a British accent guy on KWPR and hand in some news and read it.

You're still not going to be happy. The power of God is in the message, in the delivery, and in those who are seeking it and better receive it. And you'll see this when we come back from the break.

We're going to, you look down at verse 9, you see the italics in the New King James. I have not seen nor ear heard nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. Well, you know, this is an Old Testament quote.

You know how Paul is. He quotes the Old Testament. You've got to look at the context.

We're going to be looking at the idea of calling in verse 24 to those who are the call. God has revealed in verse 10 through his spirit. The spirit searches all things.

Yes, the deep things of God. Where does this come from? How does it work? Why is it important to us? We'll see that when we come back from the break.