



February 2018

DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #1

By: Steve Ramos

There is a part of us as men that strives to be the best. In each of us there is a competitive side that longs to win. It may be carnal, it may be spiritual. It could be pride, or just our testosterone taking over?

The thing is, God, in his sovereign wisdom, through Christ, has completely wrecked that entire paradigm according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself! (It's all about Jesus, not us.)

You no longer need to be competitive. You no longer need to strive to be better than the next guy. Everything we lack (and I lack plenty) has been given to us by God in Christ! Can you say... "WINNING!!!?"

God, in his infinite wisdom, mercy and grace "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue". [2 Peter 1:3]

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #1

Colossians 2:8-10 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power"

Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, **who can be against us?**"

Romans 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give us all things?**"

Questions – Day #1

1. Have you ever encountered someone that has a spirit of superiority?
2. Have you ever felt inferior to others because of finances, education or ethnicity?
3. Have you ever felt pressure to perform well or impress someone you really didn't like?



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DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #2

Bv: Steve Ramos

One of the things I have learned through the years is that God Hates pride. (Prov. 6:16-19) So much so that he purposely sets out to destroy any wise guy or smart aleck who would intellectually oppose the things of God. I love it!

There are highly intelligent men, with worldly wisdom, scientific reasoning, and mathematical equations that only serve to drag them further away from God. In spite of their great knowledge of worldly things, ignorance still prevails. Iniquity still abounds. And though they have big heads and high IQ's, they know nothing about the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8) or the wisdom and power of God that resides in the cross and the Gospel of Grace.

What irony!!!

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #2

1 Timothy 6:20 "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and **oppositions of science falsely so called**"

Romans 11:33-36 "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 hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Psalms 2:1-4 "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. **He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh:** the Lord shall have them in derision."

Questions – Day #2

1. Why do you think God hates pride so much?
2. Is there something wrong with being educated or smart? Explain.
3. Why is secular knowledge and modern, liberal, progressive thinking often contrary to the thoughts and standards of God?



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DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #3

By: Steve Ramos

"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. [1 Cor. 1:21]"

Is preaching the Gospel foolish? Only to those who are wise in their own conceit. Paul said, "We are fools for Christ's sake..." (1 Cor. 4:10) Foolish by worldly standards. Willing to suffer. Willing to sacrifice. Willing to endure, persevere and even die for the sake of Christ, is foolish to those who perish and don't believe. A preacher once said, "I'm a fool for Christ, who's fool are you? Good question.

A stumbling block to the Jews because they were too proud and conceited to receive a Suffering Savior of lowly estate. They despised him and looked upon him with contempt.

Foolishness to the Greeks. They sought for wisdom but the messengers of the Gospel were lowly Fishermen. Uneducated brutes without eloquent words. Their prideful hearts would never receive God's simple plan to save humanity. The Doctrine being preached was stupid and foolish to them!

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #3

1 Cor.4:9-11 "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;

Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Matthew 27:22 "Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified."

Questions – Day #3

1. If you didn't know about God and the bible, would it seem foolish to believe in Immaculate Conception and a Virgin Birth?

2. If you didn't know about God and the Bible, would it seem foolish to believe in the Judgement?
3. If you didn't know about God and the bible, would it seem foolish to believe in someone taking your punishment and death (sacrificial substitution)?



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DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #4

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Paul mentions basically the same thing twice in this passage:

vs. 18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

vs. 24 "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

Those who are called and sanctified, who receive the gospel, and are enlightened by the Spirit of God, can immerse themselves in, and experience more divine revelation of God's wisdom and power in the cross and Christ crucified than in all the worldly fields of philosophy and ancient wisdom teachings combined. Those who are saved are reconciled to God and led into a relationship and a lifetime journey into the mysteries of Christ crucified and the power and wisdom of it.

Paul said in Romans.1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #4

1 Corinthians 2:2-5 "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Philippians 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"

Ephesians 1:18-20 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the

working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places”

Questions – Day #4

I believe until you are saved and filled with the Holy Ghost you can never truly understand the Power and Wisdom of God in the message of the cross.

1. How is it possible that we can have life through someone who died? [Jn. 11:25,26]
2. How can we be blessed by someone who was made a curse? [Gal. 3:13]
3. How are we justified by someone who was condemned? [Rms. 3:24-26]



February 2018

DEVO: “In Christ, we’re better than the best!” (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #5

By: Steve Ramos

Do you know that there are men that believe they can outsmart God? That if God only knew what they knew, or if God could only see things the way they do, they would be able to set him straight. I guess they plan to justify themselves and debate God at their judgement? That is why God is willing to completely demolish the arrogant so-called “wisdom” of the world and secular man [vs.19].

Very few men of distinguished character were chosen for the work of the ministry. God did not choose philosophers, polished speakers, or men of wealth, power and interest in the world, to preach the gospel. Not the wise men, not the mighty and noble, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world, the weak things of the world, the base and despicable things of the world to be the preachers of the gospel and planters of the church!

This ensures that men will know success was not brought about because of the vessel, but because of God’s power through a weak and imperfect instrument. “That no flesh should glory in his presence.” [vs.29]

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #5

Judges 6:15 "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Exodus 3:11 "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Exodus 4:1 "And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee."

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

Questions – Day #5

1. Have you ever prayed for God to do something (i.e. resolve a MAJOR issue in your life) and he does it in a way you never would have imagined?
2. Why would God choose the foolish, weak, and base things of the world instead of what man would choose?
3. Do you believe God has a sense of humor? Why or why not?



February 2018

DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #6

By: Steve Ramos

Here's the best part guys. Here's why I have titled this seven day devotional, "**In Christ, we're better than the best.**" God has chosen us, insignificant in the sight of the world and scholarly men, and has placed us in Christ! "Who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption" [vs. 30].

Things that everyone needs, things that everyone wants, and the things that everyone is desperately looking for, God has graciously bestowed upon us through his son Jesus Christ. Not because we are worthy. Not because we deserve it. Not because of our denomination, religious background or church affiliation. But because of God's grace, through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. On day seven, we'll wrap things up with exactly what this passage says God has bestowed upon us through our standing in Christ.

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #6

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ**”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:13 “But now **in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

Philippians 3:9 “And be **found in him**, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith”

Colossians 3:3 “For ye are dead, and your life is **hid with Christ in God.**”

2 Timothy 1:9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us **in Christ Jesus** before the world began”

Questions – Day #6

1. What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
2. How can we be in Christ and Christ be in us?
3. How can Christ be seated at the right hand of God and be present with us here?
4. How can we be here and yet be seated with Christ in heavenly places?



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DEVO: "In Christ, we're better than the best!" (1 Cor. 1:19-31) Day #7

By: Steve Ramos

These last six days we have seen how God confounds the wise with his own unconventional/unorthodox brand of wisdom: "the foolishness of God vs. the wisdom of man." And how it pleased him to save those who believe the Gospel. Aren't you glad we're on God's side? Not only does he humiliate the proud and save the humble, he gives us what we don't have in and of ourselves:

Wisdom - Because apart from God we are woefully ignorant and foolish. "In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" [Col. 2:3]. By whom we become "wise unto salvation".

Righteousness - Because we are unrighteous or at best, self-righteous, sinful, unjustifiable, guilty, liable to just punishment. But now, we have the "Righteousness of God" [Rom. 3:21-26] through Christ.

Sanctification - Because we are depraved, corrupt and defiled, completely undone before a Holy God. But now in Christ, we are sanctified by the Spirit, by his Body and Blood [Heb. 10:14-20; 1 Cor. 6:11].

Redemption - Because we are carnal, sold under sin [Rom. 7:14] and in bondage as slaves to sin, death, hell and the grave. But now through Christ and the power of his resurrection we are redeemed and delivered from the dominion and consequences of sin. One day our bodies will be redeemed also! [Romans 8:23]

After going through this short passage from 1 Corinthians for seven days, I find that all my earthly wisdom and accomplishments lose their significance. They pale and fade away alongside what God has done in my life. I can only stand in awe of the mighty and wise God that we serve, and say along with verse 31: "That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Because of God, "In Christ, we're better than the best!"

Scriptures (KJV) – Day #7

James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Romans 4:5 "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

Romans 4:6 "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works"

Hebrews 10:10 "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"

Questions – Day #7

How can anyone compete with what you have? There is no contest! God has placed us in Christ and we are complete in him! [Col.2:10]

1. What is a good way to remind ourselves of these powerful truths and great blessings?
2. God has blessed us and equipped us to walk in victory and overcome. Is there something hindering your victory?
3. Walk in the Authority and Dominion God has given you in Christ.