

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

## *Bible Study Outline*

**TOPIC:** Placing Confidence in Christ

**TEXT:** *1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5*

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** In 1938, I was privileged to lead an eight-day mission at the University of Sydney, Australia. On the last night, the meeting was due to be held in the imposing great hall of the university. But I had caught what the Australians call a "wog" (flu bug), which had deprived me of speech. Shortly before the meeting some student leaders gathered around me, and one of them read the words of Jesus to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul continued, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Then the students prayed that these words might be fulfilled in me that night.

The hall was packed. But I could only croak my address into the microphone in monotone, unable to assert my personality or modulate my voice in any way. When the time came for the invitation, however, there was an immediate and eager response. I have been back to Australia ten times since then, and every time someone accosts me somewhere, asking, "Do you remember that meeting in the great hall of Sydney University when you lost your voice? I came to Christ that night."

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Confidence is not always an asset—especially if that confidence is misplaced. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5. Suppose you were now faced with one of the most important tasks of your life. What would you find in this passage that encourages you? Discuss.

2. In view of Paul's description of the Corinthians in 1:26-30, what kinds of people would you expect to see in the church of Corinth? Based on these verses, do you think Jesus is mostly for the poor and the weak, or is it important to take the gospel to elite groups—like students and professional people—too? Explain

3. Focus on the way Jesus is described in 1:30. What does this convey about the person and work of Jesus?

4. What is dangerous about boasting—even silently to yourself?

5. Bring to mind one of your latest great accomplishments. What skills and opportunities has God given you that allowed this to happen?

How might your thinking and speaking of this subject become a “boast in the Lord” rather than a boast about yourself?

6. Examine the text again and look for two uses of the phrase “so that.” From these, what can you conclude about God's purposes in the way he allowed Christian faith to develop at Corinth?

7. Review Paul's description of himself and his preaching in 2:1-5. Do you think he would be well-received as a guest speaker in most churches of today? Why or why not?

8. To those who are in church leadership, what weaknesses of yours made you feel inadequate when you were first called into leadership? Describe how have you seen the Spirit work through your leadership despite those weaknesses.

9. Paul said to the Corinthian Christians, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” Is there anything that God has done for you that is worth boasting about (Jeremiah 9:23-24)? How might such thing help you become a better leader in all settings.