

CELEBRATE EASTER

A landscape photograph featuring three wooden crosses on a grassy hill. The scene is set at sunrise or sunset, with a bright, glowing sun low on the horizon, casting a long, golden path that leads towards the crosses. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

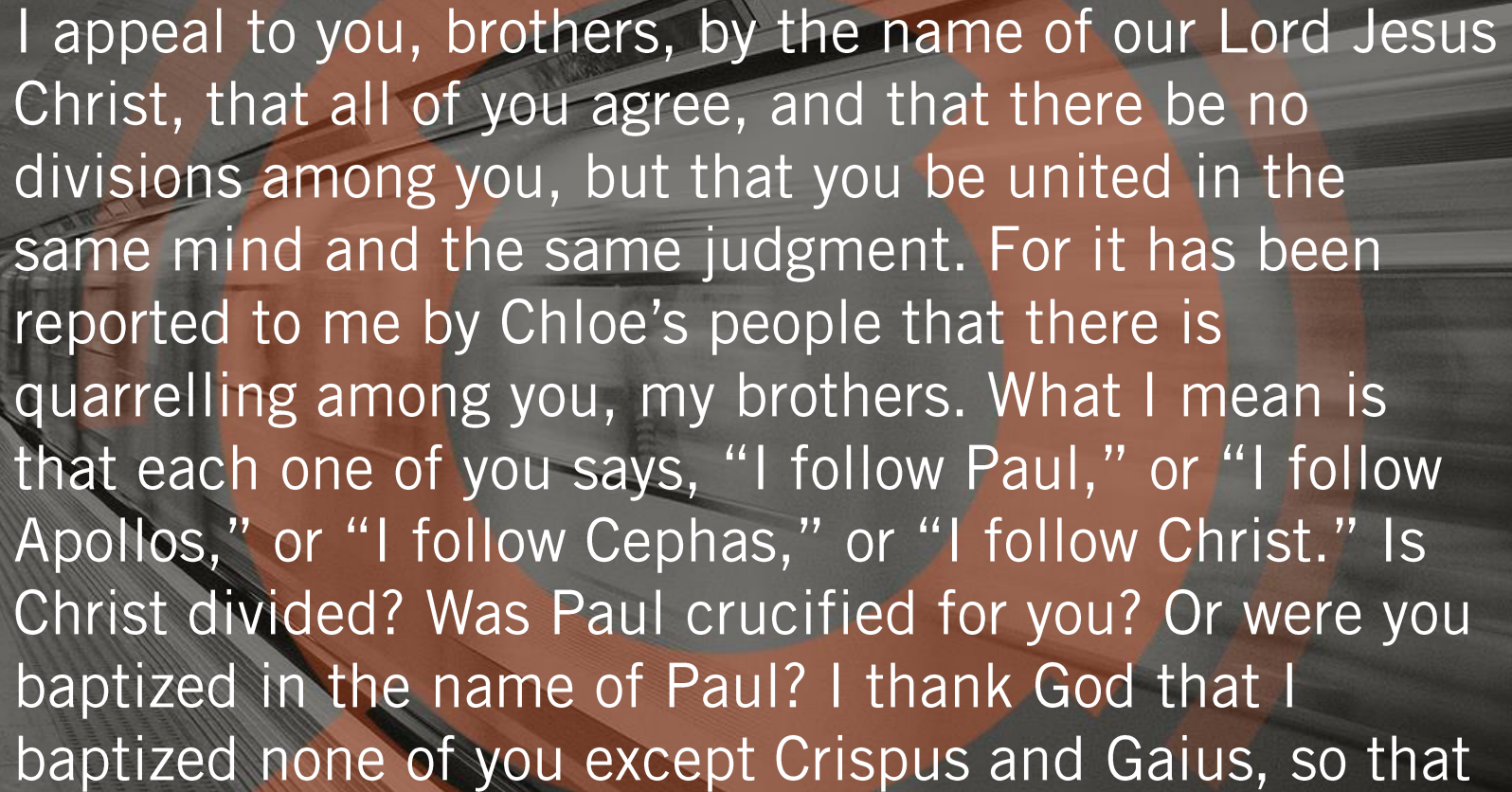
Family Service

A blurred high-speed train is shown at a station platform. The train is moving from left to right, creating a sense of motion. A large, semi-transparent orange cross is overlaid on the image, centered behind the text. The background is a grayscale image of the train and platform.

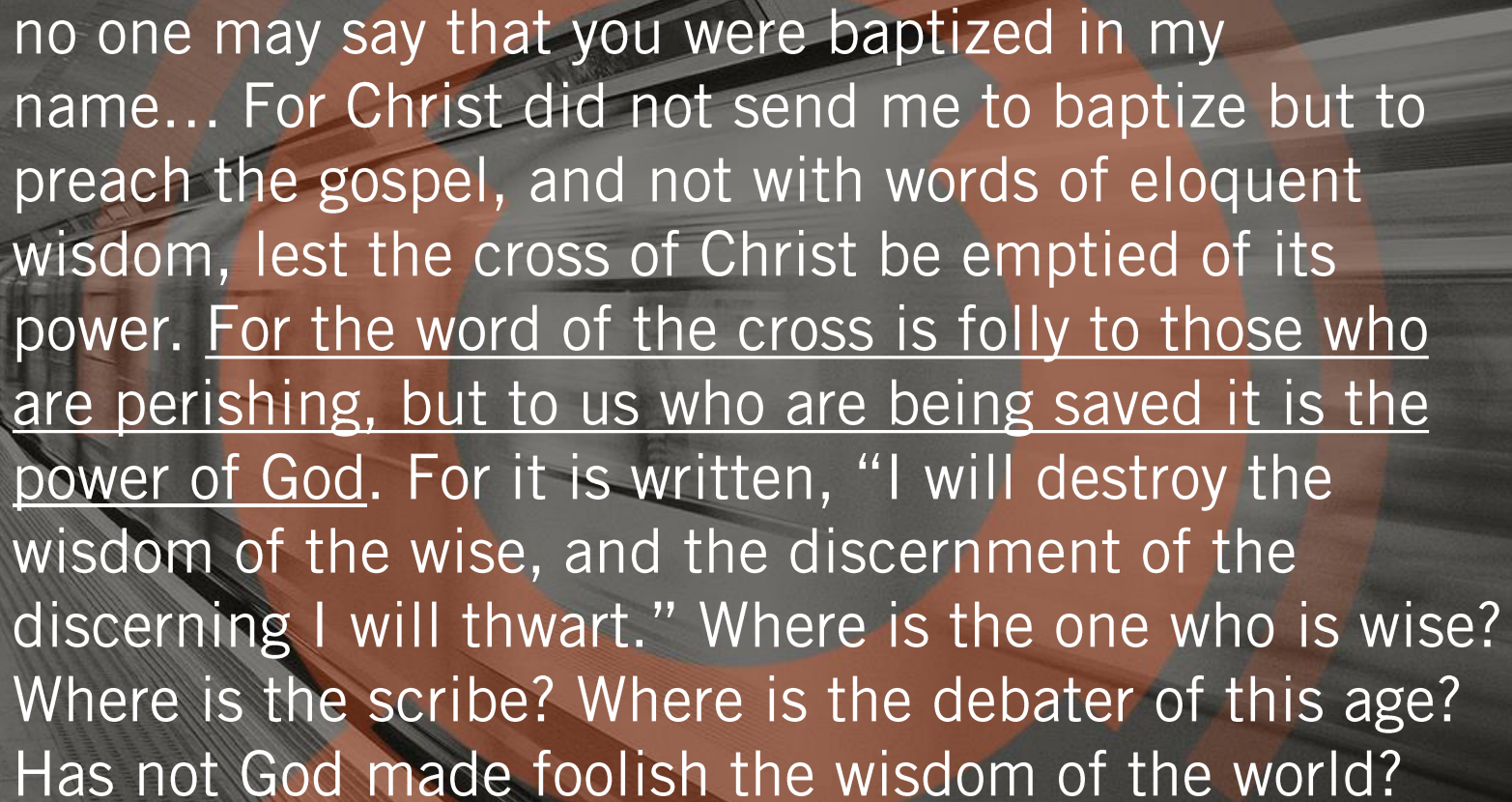
The wisdom of God in the cross

1 Corinthians 1 :10-26

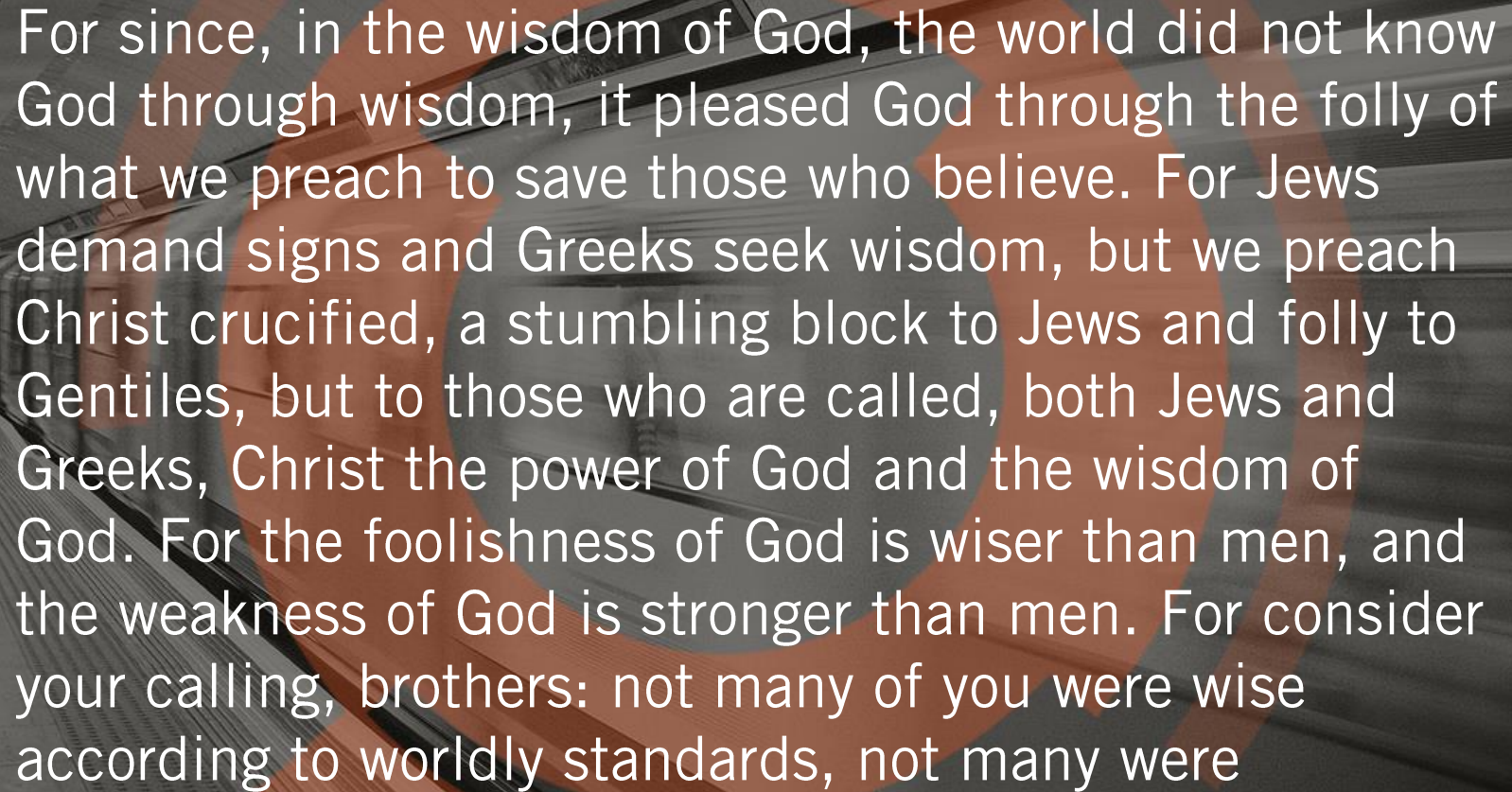
Manus Altmann



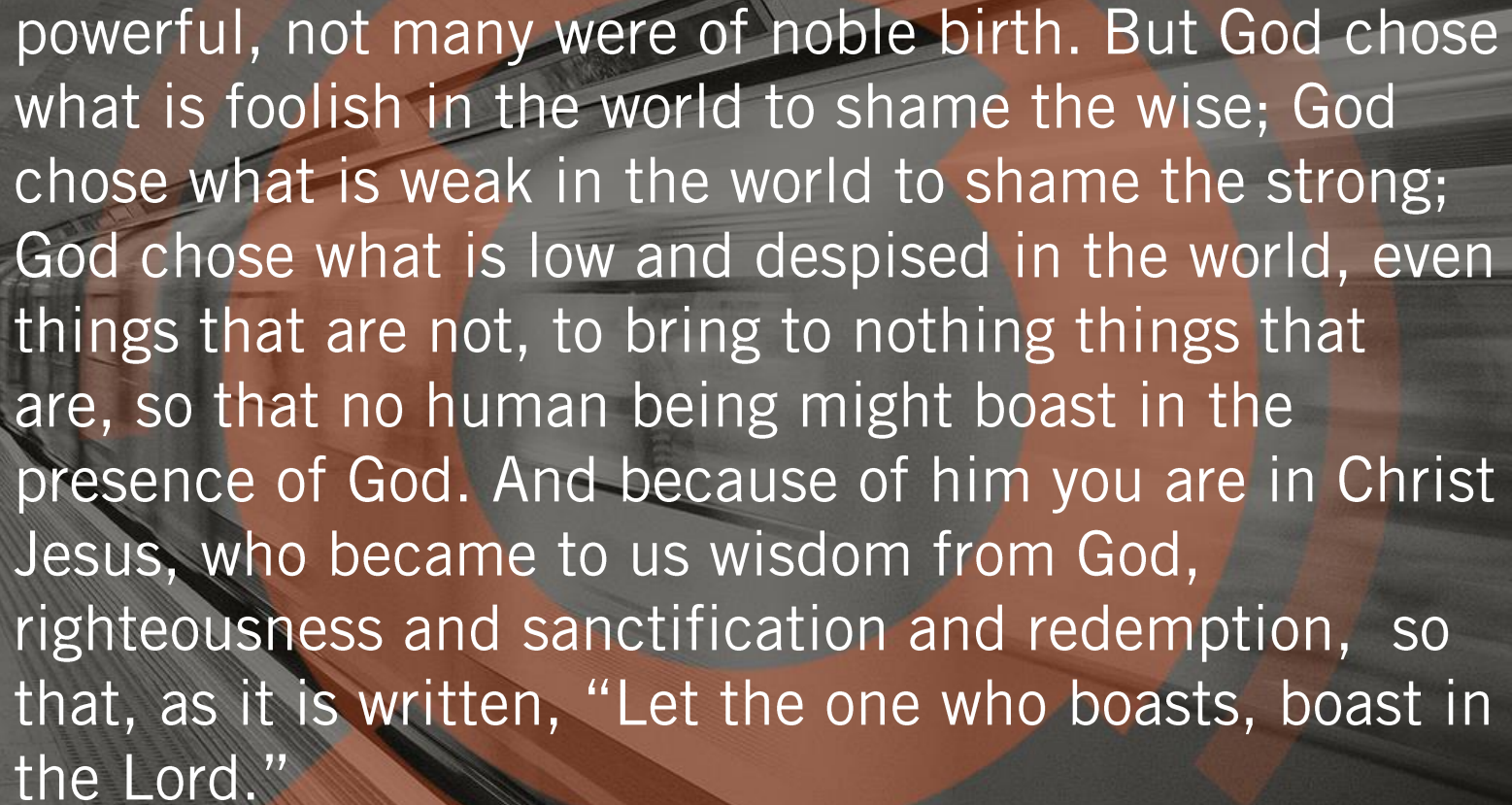
I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that



no one may say that you were baptized in my name... For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?



For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were

A blurred high-speed train is shown at a station platform. The train is moving from left to right, creating a sense of motion. The platform is visible on the left side. A large, semi-transparent orange circle is overlaid on the image, centered behind the text. The text is white and reads: "powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A blurred high-speed train is shown in motion at a station platform. The train is moving from left to right, creating a sense of speed. The platform is visible on the left side, with a few people standing. A large, semi-transparent orange circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "Corinth" in white text. The overall image has a dark, muted color palette with the orange circle providing a strong visual contrast.

Corinth

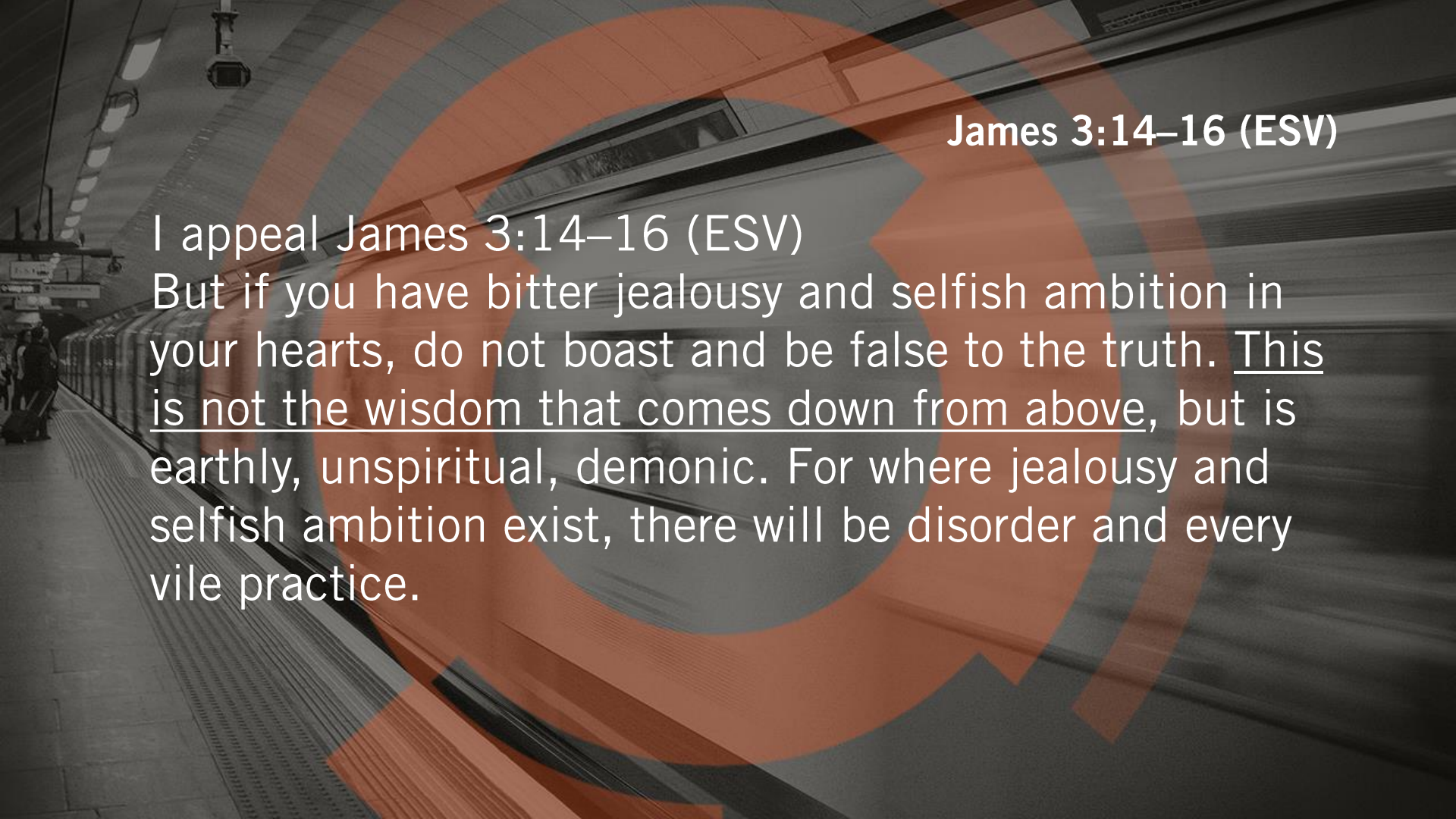


V 17-20

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

V 10-15

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ...What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?



James 3:14–16 (ESV)

I appeal James 3:14–16 (ESV)

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

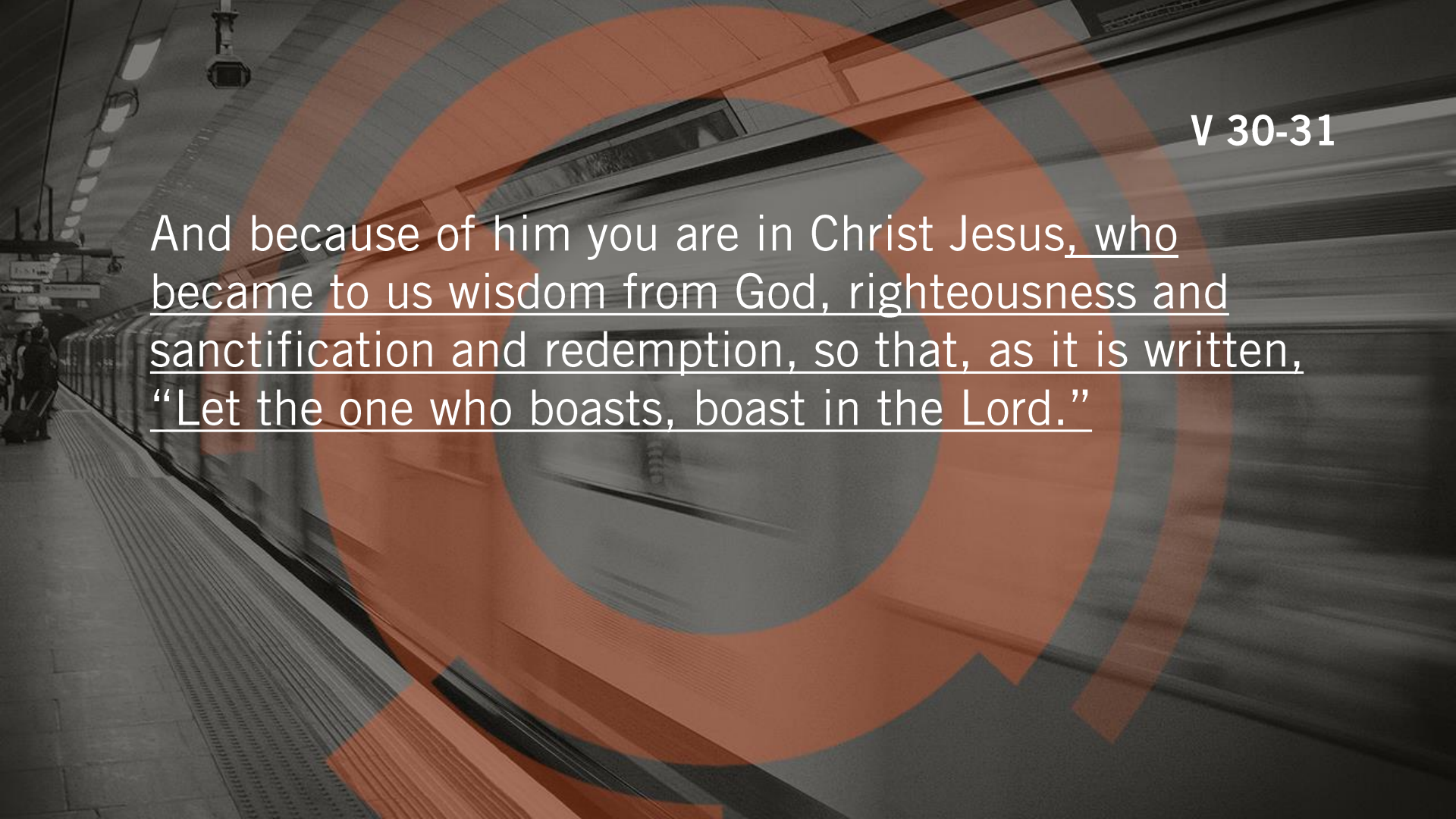
A blurred high-speed train is shown at a station platform. The train is moving from left to right, creating a sense of motion. A large, semi-transparent orange question mark is overlaid on the image, centered behind the text. The background is a grey, overcast sky and the station platform.

V 21-25

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

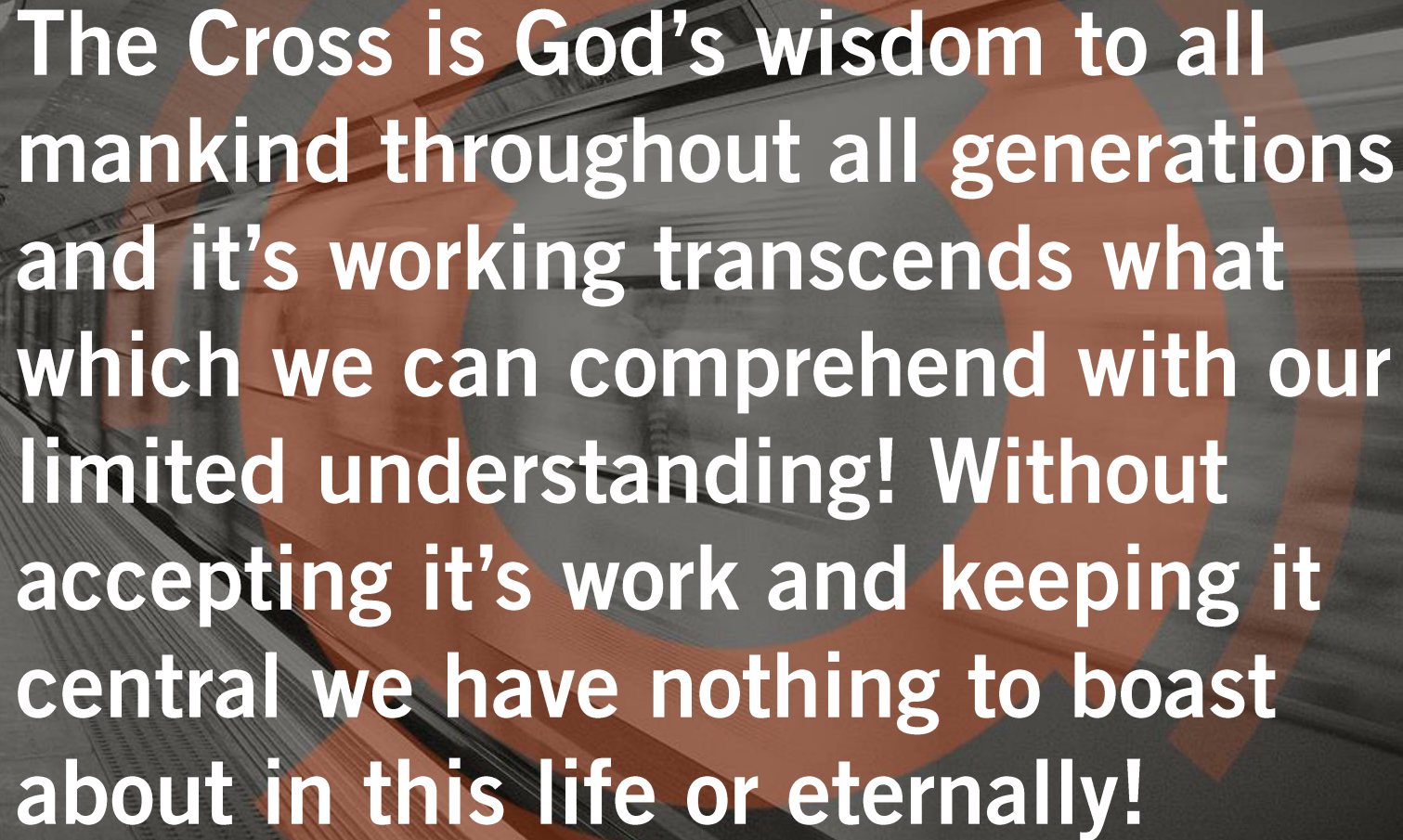
V 26-29

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



V 30-31

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A blurred high-speed train is shown at a station platform. The train is moving from left to right, creating a sense of motion. The platform is visible on the left side. A large, semi-transparent orange cross watermark is overlaid on the entire image. The text is centered over the cross.

The Cross is God's wisdom to all mankind throughout all generations and it's working transcends what which we can comprehend with our limited understanding! Without accepting it's work and keeping it central we have nothing to boast about in this life or eternally!

Weekly small group notes from Sunday Sermon (Duration - 1 to 1.5hrs)

1. Welcome: Introduce SG to visitors and ask group to share on the following: What meaning has Easter's held to you/your family in the past?
2. Worship together: 1 or 2 Worship Songs / open SG in prayer asking the Father to reveal to us the wisdom of the cross.
SG Questions: (let 2 or 3 people answer a specific question and give everyone a turn)
3. a) The Wisdom of God: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-26. What is the wisdom of God not according to this passage?/ What do you think did the culture in Corinth at that time esteem as Wisdom/worthy of following?
b) Verse 17-20: Do you personally believe the cross is the power/wisdom of God unto the whole world and why?
c) Verse 26-29: From this verse is there any social or cultural position that makes us more wise in God's estimation? How can that liberate me from the fear of man?
4. **Remind the SG that the Cross is the centre of our faith and that that is the only boast that we will have in eternity. The Cross is the gateway to our righteousness and the foundation to every good work and corporate mission we can embark on.**
5. b) Turn together in groups of 2: Let's pray for each other to base all our confidence in the work of the cross and build our life's and relationships upon it's power and foundation.