

I. Introduction.

- A. To get ahead you need to look ahead, but it's also good to look back, now and then; those who accept Christ later in life should take an occasional look back to where they used to be and thank God for where they are.**
- B. I'm not everything I can and should be, but I'm not what I used to be; with God's help I've changed for the better.**
- C. Jesus WILL make a difference in the lives of those who truly know and follow him.**

II. Ordinary People.

- A. 1 Cor. 1:26 made me think about the sinful life I lived before I accepted Christ; but Paul had something else in mind when he wrote these inspired words.**
- B. Paul wanted people to remember what their social standing was before they answered the call to accept Christ.**
 - 1. God calls out to all mankind to accept Christ (see 2 Pet. 3:9; Titus 2:11; and John 6:44).**
 - 2. Only those who answer God's call and accept Christ are saved (see John 1:12 and 3:16).**
 - 3. Accepting Christ is a choice – the action or “work” God requires for salvation (see John 6:28,29).**
- C. For the most part, the Church of Christ is made up of ordinary people (v. 26-28).**
 - 1. The so-called wise and strong men of this world tend to reject God's truth.**
 - 2. Ordinary people are less likely to boast about their accomplishments (v.29).**
 - 3. In and through Christ, ordinary people accomplish extraordinary things and Christ gets the credit.**
- D. If you make yourself available to God, he will use you – he will work in and through you.**
- E. Apart from Christ you can do nothing (John 15:5); in and through Christ you can do anything (Phil. 4:13).**
- F. If you are truly following Christ, you are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ.**

III. Conclusion.

- A. I'm proud of the way my life has changed, but I give all the credit to Jesus; I boast not in myself but in the Lord (v.31).**
- B. Jesus is everything to me; I hope he's everything to you.**