

1 Corinthians Class Schedule

1/10/2016	1:1-9	Salutations to the Church
1/17/2016	1:10-17	Divisions in the Church
1/24/2016	1:18-25	The Message of the Cross
1/31/2016	1:26-31	Consider your Calling
2/7/2016	2:1-5	Proclaiming Christ Crucified
2/14/2016	2:6-13	The Wisdom of God
2/21/2016	2:14-16 to 3:1-4	The Three Types of Men in Scripture
2/28/2016	3:5-15	The role of God's servant

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Outline*

- A. The Problem of Divisions Stated 1:10-12
- B. Paul's teaching on Unity 1:13-4:21
 - 1. Unity is Achieved by Considering the Person and Work of Christ
1:13-17
 - 2. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the True Nature of the Gospel
(i.e. Word of the Cross) 1:18-25
 - 3. Unity Is Achieved by Viewing the Membership of the Church
1:26-31
 - 4. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the Nature of True Wisdom
2:1 to 3:4
 - 5. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the Nature of Christian Service
3:5 to 4:21

* adapted from McCalley 2

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

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Unity Is Achieved by
Considering the Nature of True Wisdom*

Powerful Preaching: Its Content and Method 2:1-5

1. The Nature of Paul's Preaching 2:1-4

2. The Purpose of Paul's Preaching 2:5

Also let's compare the main message of Chp.1 with 2

- The cross as viewed by man
- The cross as viewed by God

* adapted from McCalley ⁴

- **The cross as viewed by man in Chp.1**
- For the word of the cross is foolishness – v18
- the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God *it only saw* the foolishness of the message preached (in its view) – v21
- “Christ crucified”, --- to Gentiles foolishness, - v23
- **The cross as viewed by God in Chp.2**
- we do speak wisdom --- a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age – v6
- For to us God revealed *them (the things)* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God (God’s wisdom) – v10

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¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

And when I came to you, brethren

Paul will now describe how he arrived in Corinth

I did not come with or I came not, “according to” (kata)

- **superiority of speech**

superiority - superiority, preeminence, is translated excellency in KJV; from “to have over” (hyper, "over," echō, "to have"),

Paul offered the example of his preaching among the Corinthians as a further illustration of what the wisdom of God can do in contrast to what the words that humans regard as wisdom can do. – Constable

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¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

- **superiority of wisdom**

once again this is man's wisdom not God's wisdom

The first expression refers to rhetorical skill and has to do with his method of preaching. The second item refers to philosophical depth and pertains to the content of his preaching.

McCalley

see 1 Cor 1:17 --- not in cleverness of speech; also 1 Cor 2:13

I came, not having my message dominated by a transcendent rhetorical display or by philosophical subtlety (Wuest)

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¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

proclaiming to you the testimony of God

or when I was announcing to you the testimony of God,

one early manuscript has "mystery" of God

But we are to proclaim the excellency of Christ

1 Peter 2:9 --- so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Let's recall the attributes of God?

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² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

For I determined to know nothing among you

for, after weighing the issues, I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and this very One as crucified (Wuest)

determined - primarily, "to separate," hence, "to be of opinion, approve, esteem," also "to determine, resolve, decree – see Acts 27:1, 2 Cor 2:1, Titus 3:12

This appears to be a deliberate determination to focus on the cross of Christ and nothing else! - **Why?**

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² For I determined to know nothing among you **except** Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

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³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling

I was with you in

- **weakness** - weakness, sickness

2 Cor. 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Was this a bodily weakness?

see Gal 4:13-14

When Paul describes himself as among them in weakness, he uses a word that is used to describe his own physical ailment (2 Cor 12:7-9 – same word) - McCally

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³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling

I was with you in

- **fear** - fear, terror, reverence, respect, honor
- **trembling** - expressing great timidity when used in the expression "fear and trembling"

When Paul speaks of his fear and trembling, he is not referring to shame over the message that he preached or to anxiety over his personal safety, but rather to the grave responsibility that is his in preaching the gospel. - McCally

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⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

my message - logos – same as in 1 Cor 1:18

my preaching - a proclamation by a herald; the substance of what is "preached" as distinct from the act of preaching

Vine

were not in persuasive words of wisdom

persuasive – enticing, winning; it signifies the employment of plausible arguments

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⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

but – in strong contrast

demonstration - a pointing out" (*apo*, "forth," *deiknymi*, "to show"), a "showing" or demonstrating by argument

of the Spirit and of power

See 1 Thess 1:5, Acts 10:38, 1 Cor 4:20

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⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

so that – with a purpose that

your faith would not rest

should not be resting (Wuest)

on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

in human philosophy but in God's power (Wuest)

The contrast is between the wisdom of men and the power of God. The emphasis, therefore, is not on what they know, but rather on how firm and well-grounded their faith is. Only that which is divinely done is permanent. - McCalley