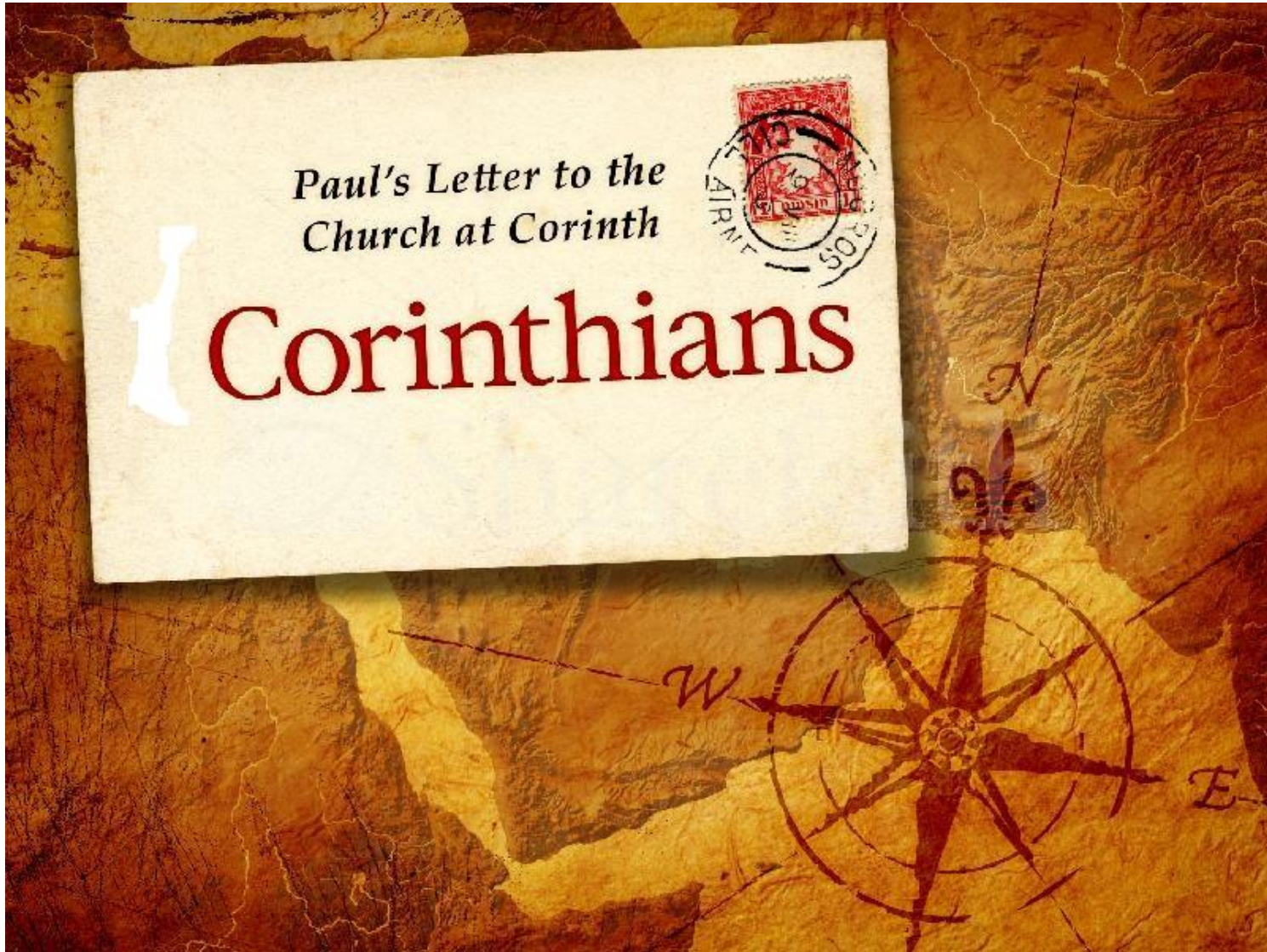


# 1 Cor. 2:1-5 Proclaiming Christ Crucified



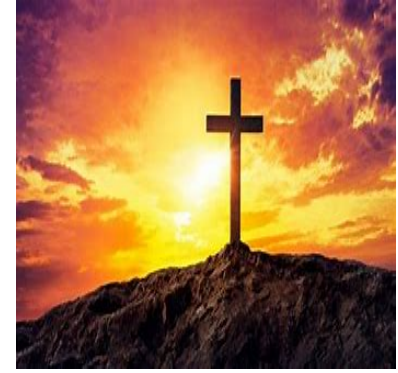
# Today's Outline\*



The Problem of Division Addressed 1:13 to 4:21

1. Unity by the Person and Work of Christ 1:13-17
2. Unity by Considering the True Nature of the Gospel 1:18-25
3. Unity by Viewing the Membership of the Church 1:26-31
4. Unity by Considering the Nature of True Wisdom 2:1-3:4
  - a. Paul's Preaching: Its Content and Method 2:1-5
    - The Nature of Paul's Preaching 2:1-4
    - The Purpose of Paul's Preaching 2:5
  - b. True Wisdom: Its Content and Source 2:6-3:4
    - Where True Wisdom Is Not Found 2:6-9
    - Where True Wisdom Is Found 2:10-13

# Key Points of Chapters 1 & 2



1 Cor 1:18 For the word\* of the cross

- is foolishness to those who are perishing,
- but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

So what do we mean when we say “word of the cross”?

The doctrine (message) of the cross is the teaching that

- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died a death wherein the guilt and penalty of man’s sin was placed on Him,
- making it possible for salvation to be extended to those who believe in Christ.

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\* message = *logos*

# Key Contrast of Chapters 1 & 2\*



- 1 Cor. Chp 1 and 2 stand in contrast as to how the “message of the cross” is viewed.
- In Chp 1 Paul calls the “doctrine of the cross” by the name men give it, i.e., *foolishness* (1:18, 21, 23).
- *foolishness* - *moria* - two ideas in this word: not logical and from a feeble mind
- In Chp 2 this changes, for Paul now begins to call the “doctrine of the cross” by its true nature, i.e., *wisdom* (1 Cor 2:6-7).
- *wisdom* - *sophia* – can be used of God’s wisdom or man’s wisdom

\* McCalley



## Example of the “message of the cross” as foolishness

Acts 26:22-24 - Paul before King Agrippa



<sup>22</sup> --- I (Paul) stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place;

<sup>23</sup> that the Christ was to suffer, *and* that by reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles.

<sup>24</sup> While *Paul* was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! *Your* great learning is driving you mad."



<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

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

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



<sup>1</sup> 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

and I having come to you, brothers, (Interlinear)

having come – *erchomai* - to come, or to go,  
signifies the act of coming  
(past point fact)

proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

proclaiming - *katangellō* - to declare, proclaim (or preach)

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



<sup>1</sup> 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.

the testimony (mystery) of God.

testimony – *mystērion* – the new testament use of the term relates it to some work or purpose of God hitherto unrevealed\*

- Paul uses it 20 times in the New Testament
- the “mysteries” comprise practically all the added truth found in the New Testament L.S. Chafer
- The gospel was both the message God had previously not revealed that the apostles made known and the message to which they bore witness. Constable



<sup>1</sup> 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.



**I did not come** (to the Corinthians)

- remember Paul said in Chp 1:17 for Christ did not send me to baptize
- Paul's method of presenting God's truth did not include the following:

**with superiority of speech**

**with – kata – according to**

**superiority - *hyperochē* - meaning superiority, excellence**

The first expression (**speech**) refers to rhetorical skill and has to do with his method of preaching.

Now Paul says  
what he  
did not do!



<sup>1</sup> 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.

I did not come (to the Corinthians) – next point

(with superiority) of wisdom

wisdom – *sophia* – speaking of man's wisdom here

- We saw the word before in 1 Cor 1:17 not in cleverness (wisdom) of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.
- The second item (wisdom) refers to philosophical depth and pertains to the content of his preaching.

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**Map 7**  
**PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND JOURNEYS**  
 (Acts 13–14; 15:39–18:22)

- First missionary journey, with Barnabas and Mark (c. A.D. 46–48)
- Second missionary journey, with Silas (c. A.D. 49–52)

# Paul's message on Mars Hill \*



The audiences on Mars Hill:

- First was the Jew, the least responsive.
- Second was the Gentile God-fearer who was the most responsive.
- Third, there was the pagan who was involved in the idolatry of Paul's time.
- This sermon is an example of Paul's approach to the pagan.

Paul's argument in the sermon --- showing God as creator (17:24) and God as judge (17:31). Man's ultimate encounter, Paul proclaims, is with Jesus Christ.

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\* called the Areopagus

# Paul's sermon on Mars Hill – part 1



- 22 So Paul --- said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.
- 23 passing through --- I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.'
- Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.
- 24a "The God who made the world and all things in it,
- does not dwell in temples made with hands;
- 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything,
- since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;
- 26 and He made from one man (Adam) every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth,
- having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

## Paul's sermon on Mars Hill – part 2



- 27 they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
- 28 for in Him we live and move and exist,
- as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'
- 29 "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold - an image formed by the art and thought of man.
- 30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance,
- God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,
- 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness
- through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
- 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."
- 33 So Paul went out --- But some men joined him and believed,



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



Now we will see Paul's true focus with Corinthians!

For I determined

determined - *krinō* - to determine, resolve, decree

Paul decided this based on what was happening in Corinth!

to know nothing among you

As far as his preaching went, Paul only spoke about Christ crucified. This was his regular practice (Gal. 3). He left all other knowledge aside. Constable

The “cross of Christ” is the central information that believers need to know in living the Christian life.

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



except (*to know*) Jesus Christ, and Him crucified

Paul's single issue is the "person" and "work" of Christ.

- Who is Jesus Christ?
- Christ was in the beginning with God
- Christ is both with God and is God
- Christ is the creator of all things
- In Christ is life and that life is the light of men
- Christ became flesh, dwelt among us, we saw His glory
- Christ is the image of the invisible God
- By Christ all things were created (in heavens, on earth, visible or invisible ---)
- In Christ all things hold together
- In Christ all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

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



- **What is the work of Jesus Christ?**

Died for all sins:

- Christ is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
- God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Jesus by the grace of God should taste death for every man, we see crowned as victor with glory and honor because of the suffering of death.

Died unto the sin (nature)

- He died with respect to our sinful nature once for all.
- God having sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned the sinful nature in the flesh.

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



was - *ginomai* – coming into a new state of being

- Paul came to the Corinthians with a new focus: knowing only Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
- In Athens Paul's preaching was to the intellectual pagans so he started with the basic: showing God is creator, God is sovereign, God is infinite, God is independent, God is life and God is judge. Therefore men should repent and come to the true God.
- But in Corinth he went to the Jews first (most rejected the message), and then to Gentiles (for their salvation), and then to the church at Corinth (for their salvation and growth).

<sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

in weakness, in fear, in much trembling

The reason Paul felt weak, fearful, and trembling was probably his sense of personal inadequacy in the face of the spiritual needs he faced when he entered Corinth.

Constable

The burden was great and the Lord comforted Paul.

Acts 18:9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."



# Final Thoughts



Paul did not design his content ("message," *logos*) and or his delivery ("preaching," *kerygma*) to impress his hearers with his eloquence or wisdom. Rather he emphasized the simple message he announced. Conviction [or convincing] came as a result of the Holy Spirit's power, not the "wisdom" of the preacher.

Constable



“...do this, in remembrance of Me.”



## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this **in** remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.