

1 Cor 2 - Nothing Except Jesus Christ and Him Crucified

1Co 2:1-16 ESV And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you **the testimony of God** with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know **nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**

One Way or Coexist?

NOTHING -- EXCEPT puts the highest priority on THIS message -- because Jesus is the ONLY WAY

- Worldly wisdom says “One Way Jesus” is offensive - no religion has a monopoly on truth
- Worldly wisdom says all religions lead to the same place (like paths up a mountain)
- Those who preach one way can be seen as **offensive**, or **arrogant** or **intolerant** ...
- **BUT WHAT IF ITS TRUE?** - then its the most loving thing they can say

Jesus settled the matter - excluding all other ways to salvation - yet there is pushback

- John 14:6 ESV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Paul's focus is “that your faith might rest in the power of God”

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 **that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

There was a demonstration of the Spirit (signs and wonders) --- 2Co 12:12

The power he has been speaking about in the context here is the message of the cross --

- 1Co 1:18 ESV 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.

Paul wanted their faith to rest in cross, not in the wisdom and philosophy of man - only the cross can save them - ONLY JESUS - ONE WAY

He did impart wisdom among the mature - Three things about God's wisdom

6 **Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom**, although it is not a **wisdom of this age** or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away [*a better rendering: which comes to nothing or is rendered ineffective*]. 7 But **we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God**, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

- It is **NOT** the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age
- It is a secret and hidden wisdom
- This wisdom was decreed **before the ages** for our glory

Let's read some other things Paul said about this

That through the church the manifold wisdom of God might be known

- Eph 3:4-11 ESV When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been **revealed** to his holy apostles and prophets **by the Spirit**. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that **through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places**. 11 **This was according to the eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord

That Christ in you the hope of glory

- Col 1:25-27 ESV of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 **the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints**. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the **glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**.

Imagine Paul's disappointment with Corinth - called to manifest the wisdom of God and the glory of God - yet he could not even speak to them about the wisdom of God - they were carnal

- 1Co 3:1 ESV But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

This wisdom is hidden / secret so the rulers of this age did not understand it

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, "**What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him**"-- 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

It was hidden from them, they didn't see it, yet they inadvertently carried out God's plan

- Act 13:27-30 ESV For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, **because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him**. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And **when they had carried out all that was written of him**, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead,

No one could have ever imagined what God in his wisdom had in mind - why? Because God's wisdom is not discovered the way we typically learn (by seeing, by hearing or by thinking / imagining)

1 Cor 2:9 is a quote from Isa 64 - and is referring to God's plan of salvation --- He did things we DID NOT LOOK FOR...He saved us in a way we could have ever imagined

- Isa 64:1-4 ESV Oh that you would **rend the heavens and come down**, that the mountains might quake at your presence-- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- **to make your name known to your adversaries**, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When ***you did awesome things that we did not look for***, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ***4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear. no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.***

Even His own disciples did not see or comprehend this hidden wisdom -- Jesus was not the Messiah they expected - they expected him to overthrow the enemy

- Mat 11:2-3 ESV [John in prison asked], **"Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"**
- Luk 24:17-21 ESV [two disciples on the road to emmaus after the crucifixion said] 21 **But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.**

It WAS secret and hidden, but NOW revealed by the Spirit

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also **no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.** 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, *that we might understand the things freely given us by God.***

- These are only understood by revelation
- Only the Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God - and we have received the spirit of God
- Now we can understand what God has freely given to us
- That is why Paul was so focused on Jesus Christ and him crucified - it was a simple message of the cross - the wisdom and power of God, to those who were being saved they would see it for what it is, and for those who were perishing it would be folly...Our message should be just as simple - this truth is understood by a revelation from God
- **It is why the one way Jesus message is so critical for today** - God's wisdom is Christ Crucified - it is the wisdom and the power of God...that which has been hidden is revealed and needs to be spoken

Those who are spiritual vs the natural person

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths **to those who are spiritual.**14 **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.** 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" ***But we have the mind of Christ.***

- Natural does not accept the things of the Spirit of God - He is NOT able to understand them
- They are spiritually discerned - (if they don't have the Spirit, they CANNOT)
- It is like saying that those who are not blind can see all things, but they themselves cannot be seen by those who are blind.

Summary

- I hope you understand the necessity of a Jesus the Only Way message
- It will offend some, but it is God's wisdom, hidden, and now revealed that saves mankind
- Though it is a simple message, in another way it is profound because when a person understands it, it is because he/she has received revelation from God, and we want their faith to be in the power of God and not in our wisdom or fancy arguments

- I hope you see the importance of allowing the Salvation of Christ to have its continual work in you...that rather than remaining a carnal babe, you will want to grow to maturity...so that we as a church can make the wisdom of God known.
 - It is the hundreds of lives who have been forgiven and changed and growing in the glory of God because of the cross...to continue to stay in spiritual infancy like the Corinthians is not an option for us any longer...we have the mind of Christ and we can understand these things.