

## 1 Corinthians 2

Recap -

Paul confronting the church because of division - each person partitioning themselves off into different schools of thought, sayin, “I am of Paul, or I am of Apollos, or I am of Peter, or I am of Christ...”

Historically this problem has continued to plague the church, locally and universally, with God’s beloved saints adopting the character and doctrine of their favorite teacher or personality in lieu of pure scripture. Or, to put the point more sharply - instead of adopting the character and doctrine of our Lord by His grace.

This was a common practice for the ancient greeks - to ascribe to some popular school or thought and to declare themselves as such - stoics, or sophists, or skeptics, or cynics, or eclectics, or epicureans, etc...

So we find that that much of their culture had seeped its way into the body. So Paul breaks down that line of thought by declaring that God’s wisdom doesn’t work that way. God’s wisdom may in fact appear as foolishness before those who are perishing. God’s system isn’t based on our merit, or intellect, or ability to influence through might or wealth.

God’s system looks like this: [1Co 1:30 NKJV] 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

In chapter 2 Paul adds definition to his instruction by way of personal example. Which, we are to emulate. Walk out these words - don't just talk out these words.

v.1-3

brethren - Paul loves this church dearly, how hard it is to offer up loving correction as Paul is doing with the words 'brother' on our lips. Why? You never know how it's going to go down. Is that brother or sister going to receive correction or are they going to bolt - a tricky position to be in when all you want to do is see people grow in their faith - to grow deep strong roots. Nevertheless Paul demonstrates the courage and faithfulness, to care enough for them to speak up and not allow them to be dragged away by self inflicted injury - spiritually speaking.

when I came to you - how so? He had just been essentially chased from Thessalonica, to Berea, to Athens by sea

while in Athens

[Act 17:16 NKJV] 16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

This eventually leads to Paul reasoning in the synagogue and then in the open air, and finally he finds himself at a place called Areopagus or Mars Hill

Following this he departs and arrives at Corinth and begins his usual routine of meeting in the synagogue and teaching about Jesus Christ and then things got wild - which you can read about in Acts 18.

Paul is faithful teaching about salvation through Jesus, people are being saved, but as is quite common when people begin to believe in Christ - there is opposition, there is conflict - unsaved people can't stand to see others come to faith for some reason.

Anyway, Paul holds some trepidation in his heart which we see in Acts 18:9-10

[Act 18:9-10 NKJV] 9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

V2 - this is it! this is ministry and evangelism - no tricks, no gimmicks, "I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." No bestseller list, or anecdotal evidence, or hyperbole. Simply this: God loves us so much, so terribly much, that he took our punishment in his Body that we could be with Him forever. There was a debt to pay that we couldn't afford and being without His creation was simply too much for our God to bear so He made a way through the cross of Christ to reconcile us to himself.

v.3 - this is what a mighty evangelist looks like - weakness and fear and trembling.

-remember not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. (v.26)

v.4-5

\*not with persuasive (KJV - enticing) words of human wisdom - it is possible to lead somebody down a logical path to reach the conclusion you would have them reach - this is what we see in marketing after all. (action, awareness, attitude).

but in demonstration - a proof by the Spirit and power of God, operating in me, and stirring in the minds of my hearers the most holy emotions and thus persuading them, [1 Corinthians 2:4](#) (contextually opposed to proof by rhetorical arts and philosophic arguments — the sense in which the Greek philosophers use the word; (Thayer's greek lexicon)

your faith should not be in the wisdom of men - you will be disappointed every time, we all fail.

-Bikram Choudri - Bikram yoga (if it is wisdom alone one is seeking)

-the church has their failures - don't put your faith in man's wisdom but in the POWER of GOD, that alone will carry you into eternity

v.6 HOWEVER, there is a place for wisdom - christianity is not a faith of ignorance. While our gospel appears as foolishness before those who are perishing it is true wisdom.

[Isa 1:18 NKJV] 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Our God is a God of reason - he is the creator of reason.

This was also Paul's method - he reasoned with them, repeatedly we see this throughout Acts.

He writes: [2Ti 4:1-2 NKJV] 1 I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. to who? who can receive these things? those who are mature (v.6) - not everybody is ready for that - though we should all be under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit and press on to maturity by WALKING OUT OUR FAITH, and FLEEING from being church slugs.

[Heb 5:12-14 NKJV] 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles (a diminutive of logos - utterances) of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes [only] of milk [is]

unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, [that is], those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. [Heb 6:1-3 NKJV] 1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary [principles] of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

An immature person (such as a baby) doesn't have the discernment to know what is good to eat and what isn't. A baby will put anything into its mouth. (Guzik)

\*Sunday of hard truths man! It's time to grow up! Keep studying, keep seeking, keep learning, exercise your faith and your muscles and grow up into maturity in Christ. And oh btw, beware of pride, on the way!

-not the wisdom of this age - we don't make things fit into our faith, God's wisdom is much more profound than the intermingling of momentary wisdom which fails.

v.7-9 We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery - What!? Why!? I thought we made it plain to see - yes, to those who are listening.

Old friend we used to talk.

What we used to say, I can't recall.

Was I really listening?

Or was I just waiting for my turn to talk?  
I got everything to say too. -As cities burn

ARE YOU LISTENING?

[Luk 8:8-11 NKJV] 8 "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" 9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" 10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest [it is given] in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' 11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Jesus doesn't leave them in the lurch, he explains to them the parable, AND he explains why it is impossible for a vast number of others - having heard the same words - to not understand what is going on.

[Luk 10:23-24 NKJV] 23 Then He turned to [His] disciples and said privately, "Blessed [are] the eyes which see the things you see; 24 "for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen [it], and to hear what you hear, and have not heard [it]."

[Psa 25:14 NKJV] 14 The secret of the LORD [is] with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

[Col 1:26-27 NKJV] 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them

God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

v.8-station or office didn't give the rulers of Paul's day special insight into eternal matters - and they don't today. HAD THEY KNOWN - they were blind to the fact - secure in their own understanding and interpretation of events.

v.9-often used by people (out of context) to indicate the things that wait for us in heaven, but that is not the point Paul is making - the point he is making, from Isaiah 64, (btw 'as it is written' - Paul ALWAYS uses scripture for his basis) - is that WE DON'T EVEN KNOW! It had not entered into their hearts those things that God had set into motion regarding the redemption of mankind.

v.10 -BUT GOD HAS REVEALED THEM TO US! Whoa! Ref. above - [Luk 10:23-24 NKJV] 23 Then He turned to [His] disciples and said privately, "Blessed [are] the eyes which see the things you see; 24 "for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen [it], and to hear what you hear, and have not heard [it]."

God shares his wisdom with us!? Why? We are supremely under qualified to keep those deep things. But He delivers them to us by His gracious Spirit.

[1Pe 1:10-12 NKJV] 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace [that would come] to you,

11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.

Let God blow your mind. Reason with Him unto maturity, these things He is teaching us are precious, yes they are weighty, and moving, and do you believe it - angels desire to look into them but God has delivered them to us - His clay vessels that we might bear these treasures for His namesake.