

Verse 18 – “The Word of the Cross”

- Referring to both:
 - the actual *content* of the message
 - the act of *conveying* the message
- “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”
 - Words are necessary – because some are perishing, and some are being saved

Verse 19 – “I will Destroy the Wisdom of the Wise”

Isaiah 29:13 - 16

13 And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

14 therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

15 Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

16 You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

Earliest Known Artistic Depiction of the Cross

- The Alexamenos Graffito - estimated to have been from about 200 AD
- The graffiti reads:
*ΑΛΕΞΑΜΕΝΟΣ
ΚΕΒΕΤΕ ΘΕΟΝ*
- Meaning: Alexamenos worships his god

Verse 23 – “Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles”

- Stumbling block (*skandalon*): from which we get the English word “scandal”
- Folly (*mōria*): from which we get the English word “moronic”



Verse 26 - “Wise According to Worldly Standards... Powerful... Noble”

- "Let no cultured person draw near [to Christians]. None wise and none sensible. For all that kind of thing we count evil. But if any man is ignorant, if any man is wanting incense and culture, if anybody's a fool, let him come boldly... We see them in their own houses, wool dressers, cobblers, the worst, the vulgarest, the most uneducated persons... They are like a swarm of bats or ants creeping out their nests or frogs holding a symposium around a swamp or worms convening in mud." – Celsus, 2nd-century Greek philosopher

Verse 2 – “Nothing Among You Except Jesus Christ and Him Crucified”

- "Jesus Christ and him crucified" is another way of saying:
 - “All that Jesus Christ has accomplished by the gospel”
- This is not to pivot the crucifixion in contraposition with the resurrection
 - This not to that the empty tomb is more important than the cross
 - You can't have one without the other
- This is also not to say that Paul didn't at first preach the resurrection in Corinth
 - Paul had just preached the resurrection in Athens:
Acts 17:32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”
 - The climax of this epistle is also in relation to resurrection in chapter 15:
1st Corinthians 15:3 - 4
3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

Verse 7 – “Secret and Hidden Wisdom of God... Decreed Before the Ages”

- There were many aspects of God's gospel plan which were kept secret and hidden (in a mystery)
 - The Greek word of hidden is *mustērion* and is used in Scripture to refer to many different hidden counsels or purposes. Here are some examples:
Luke 8:10 he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’
1st Corinthians 15:51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed
Ephesians 5:31 - 32
31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
2nd Thessalonians 2:7 - 8
7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.
8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

