### Verse 18 - "The Word of the Cross"

- Referring to both:
  - o the actual <u>content</u> of the message
  - the act of <u>conveying</u> 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 <u>this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with</u> <u>their lips, while their hearts are far from me</u>, 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 <u>the wisdom of their wise men shall perish</u>, and <u>the discernment of their</u> <u>discerning men shall be hidden</u>."

**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?"

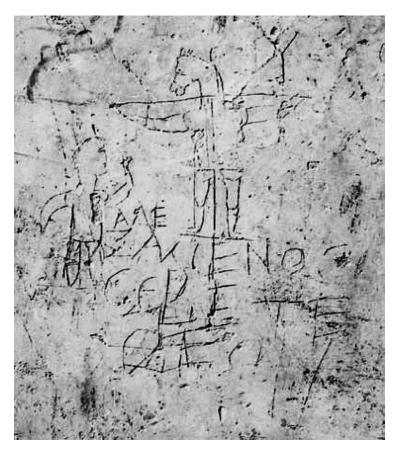
**16** You turn things upside down! <u>Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing</u> <u>made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who</u> <u>formed it, "He has no understanding"?</u>

# Earliest Known Artistic Depiction of the Cross

- The <u>Alexamenos Graffito</u> estimated to have been from about 200 AD
- The graffiti reads: *AAE EAMENOC CEBETE OEON*
- 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 (*moria*): 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 <u>not</u> 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."

 $\circ$  The climax of this epistle is also in relation to resurrection in chapter 15:

#### 1st Corinthians 15:3 - 4

**3** For <u>I delivered to you as of first importance</u> what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

**4** that he was buried, <u>that he was raised on the third day</u> in accordance with the Scriptures

### <u>Verse 7 – "Secret and Hidden Wisdom of God... Decreed Before the Ages"</u>

- There were many aspects of God's gospel plan which were kept secret and hidden (in a mystery)
  - The Greek word of hidden is *musterion* and is used in Scripture to refer to many different hidden counsels or purposes. <u>Here are some examples</u>:

**Luke 8:10** he said, "To you it has been given to know the <u>secrets</u> 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 Corinthains 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.

