

# **Baseline Knowledge**

4-2-17

1 Corinthians 1:23 (NIV)  
We preach Christ crucified!

**We have been looking at the NT books in context of the Book of Acts, which records the historical setting in which they were written. The Church is rapidly growing and things are hopping in the city of Corinth! This is a seaport town known for its immoral and corrupt culture. Not surprising that the letter of 1 Corinthians is a letter of correction.**

1 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)  
Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. God is going to give us **baseline knowledge** of the Christian faith and how to deal with the world's erroneous, immoral, and corrupt wisdom.**

1 Corinthians 1:21 (NIV)  
For since, in the wisdom of God, **the world through its wisdom** did not know HIM, God was pleased through **the foolishness of what was preached** to save those who believe.

**In the wisdom of God:**

- 1. The world **through its wisdom** did not know God!**

**In God's wisdom, man in the world's wisdom cannot know God. In the futility of the world's wisdom, man will not discover the reality of God's salvation and eternal life. The world's wisdom works against man as he creates his own false narratives to live by. An immoral and corrupt culture is evidence of the world's wisdom and failure to know God. In God's wisdom, the world's wisdom is a failure.**

- 2. God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.**

**In God's wisdom, God is pleased to come against the world's wisdom with preaching. In God's wisdom only those who believe the foolishness of what is preached will be saved.**

**What is this baseline preaching to deal with the world's wisdom in an immoral and corrupt culture?**

**1 Corinthians 1:23 (NIV)  
We preach Christ crucified!**

**If we don't grasp this, we will spend meaningless hours talking and accomplishing nothing. Preaching Christ and HIM crucified under cuts the religious and the intellectual arguments. This upsets all religious and human thought. The use of the name Christ and not Jesus is significant.**

Jesus is the **human name** for Jesus. Christ is the **heavenly description** of Jesus: **meaning** the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God; **highlighting** that the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God was crucified. **Christ, the Son of God, was crucified and died in our place for our sins.**

What are the **attributes** of this Christ, the Son of God, who was crucified?

1 Corinthians 1:24 (ESV)

To those **whom God has called** (*Literally - the called*), both Jews and Greeks, Christ is **the power of God** and **the wisdom of God**.

To the Called (we who believe), this “Christ Crucified” is **the power of God** and the **wisdom of God**. **Christ is our power and wisdom!**

Only through Christ and HIM crucified is there power and wisdom. Therefore Paul declares:

1 Corinthians 2:2 (NIV)

For **I resolved to know nothing** while I was with you **except Jesus Christ and him crucified**.

Why was this God’s wisdom that pleased God?

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV)

**So that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

**“God will not bless a world system that will turn people away from HIM.”** By preaching Christ crucified, **we humble ourselves to God** and declare that Christ died for us, paid the penalty for our sin, and loves us. We declare all things come to us from Christ and Christ alone. **Therefore, we acknowledge, “Let the one who boasts, boasts in the Lord!”** **God’s wisdom brings people to Christ!**

**Question:** Why **Christ crucified** and not **Christ resurrected** “the baseline”? The Resurrection is fundamental and Paul gives the best explanation of the resurrection in the entire Bible in C.15. **The reason to begin with “Christ Crucified” is to communicate Christ’s self-sacrificial love which over rides every human argument that is contrary to Christianity. This is the evidence that God loves us. This is a lesson is for every believer.** Never be drawn into discussions on moral issues, or Biblical disputes, or anything else without first declaring **Christ Crucified; this cripples every human and intellectual argument.**

2Cor.5:21 (NASB)

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Prophetic Team**

**Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.**