

Monthly Memory Verse April 2010



(LITV) 1Co 2:1 And when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with excellency of word or wisdom, declaring to you the Testimony of God.

[Include:] 1Co 2:2 For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him having been crucified

Publisher & Author Message

April

Message from the publisher and author

Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes

Dale's Notes are provided to be used as an encouragement to study the context from where the monthly memory verse was selected. It's my desire to provide some background information and practical understanding of some things, which I see within my own study of God's word. It's my hope through reading the notes; you will desire to study God's word in more detail.

Dale's Notes are only a layman's attempt to share the good news of our savior Jesus Christ through a monthly memory verse and the study of God's word in our daily walk with the Lord.

Brother in Jesus Christ,

Dale ☺

Dale A. Kaye

Message:

The South Texas Baptist Association - STBA - Executive Director R. Lynn Snider is currently updating their website and has open its door to The Men's Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes . Once the STBA site is completed, readers of The Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes will be able to download current and past releases.

<http://www.southtexasba.com>

Thank you, Lord Jesus for answering our prayers!

Prayer request:

Pray with me in asking God for help to provide a consistent format for the Men's Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes. I continue to ask your prayers and encouragement to serve in this way and the new email and hosting site. Please, remember my family as we make changes in our lives to honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you,

Dale

Quick Bio-glance

April

Quick Bio-glance:

Dwight L. Moody

1837 – 1899



Dwight Lyman Moody (February 5, 1837 - December 22, 1899), was an American evangelist and publisher who founded the Moody Church, Northfield School and Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts (now the Northfield Mount Hermon School), the [Moody Bible Institute](#) and [Moody Publishers](#). Dwight Moody was born in Northfield, Massachusetts to a large family. His father died at the age of 41 and Dwight was only four years old. He had five older brothers and a younger sister, with an additional twin brother and sister born one month after his father's death. His mother struggled to support the family, but some of her children had to be sent off to work room and board and Dwight was one of them sent to work. When Moody turned 17, he moved to

Boston to work in his uncle's shoe store. One of his uncle's requirements was that Moody attend the Congregational Church of Mount Vernon.

Moody moved to Chicago, Illinois in September, 1856, where he joined the Plymouth Congregational Church, and began to take an active part in the prayer meetings. In the spring of 1857, he began to minister to the welfare of the sailors in Chicago's port, then gamblers and thieves in the saloons.

After the Civil War started, he was involved with the U.S. Christian Commission of the YMCA, and paid nine visits to the battle-front. The growing Sunday School congregation needed a permanent home, so Moody started a church in Chicago, the Illinois Street Church.

He married Miss Emma C. Revell, on August 28, 1862, with whom he had a daughter, Emma Reynolds Moody, and two sons, William Revell And Paul Dwight Moody.

It was on a trip to England in 1872 that he became well known an evangelist. Some have claimed he was the greatest evangelist of the 19th century. He preached almost a hundred times and on several occasions he filled stadiums of 2,000 to 4,000 capacity. In the Botanic Gardens Palace, a meeting had between 15,000 to 30,000 people. He preached his last sermon on November 16, 1899 in Kansas City, Kansas. Becoming ill, he returned home to Northfield and died on December 22.

Theology term:

Eisegesis

Eisegesis is from the Greek [*eicegesis*] meaning 'a bringing in.' It's root is from the two Greek words [*eis*], meaning 'into,' and [*hegeisthai*], meaning 'to lead.' i.e., to lead into. In Christian Theology, by implication, it means the interpretation of a text by reading extraneous ideas into it. Eisegesis is said to occur when the reader reads his/her interpretation into the text. This is a system of explanation of scripture often makes a text subject to more than one interpretation. It is a system that reflects the personal or private interpretations or viewpoint of the interpreter, rather than what is in the text. This is best understood when compared with the word, Exegesis.

<http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/faq/glossary.html#eisegesis>

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Memory verse for the month: April 2010 (LITV)

Dale's Notes

Read: 1st Co.2:1-2**April - Part I**

1Co 2:1 And when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with excellency of word or wisdom, declaring to you the Testimony of God.

[Include:] 1Co 2:2 For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him having been crucified.

"I did not come with excellency of word or wisdom..."

"Tortured for Christ"

I came across a wonderful little book titled "Tortured for Christ" by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. He was a Jewish Lutheran pastor of the Underground Church in Communist Russia (Soviet Union) in 1944. His homeland Romania suffered under Nazi Germany, even as a Jew, and after the Germans were expelled from his country communist Russia seized it in 1945 with absolutely no resistance from their allies in the West and Europe, just like Poland and many others smaller nations gobbled up by Joseph Stalin. With the coming power of communism all clergy were forced to submit to the communist state of the USSR; Jewish, Baptists, Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and all others public religious faiths. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned for 14 years and tortured severely, along with many others that served their savior Jesus Christ in freedom of faith within the heart of which many died. These like Pastor Richard and his wife were stripped of all dignity as human beings by the atheistic, Marxists and Leninism taught and forced upon all peoples by the Communist State of the USSR, known as the Iron Curtain. All lands, properties, workers, peoples, religions, hospitals, schools, business and militaries became total ownership of the Communistic State ran by a totalitarian, butcher, dictator name Joseph Stalin and others that gave their complete allegiance to him. It was this complete allegiance from men and women to Joseph Stalin that enabled the communist party to give promise of new change that allowed Joseph Stalin to commit horrendous, evil, atrocities against human life. In one part of the book Pastor Richard admits it was easier to suffer under the Nazis but nothing could be compared to Joseph Stalin's evil Russian Empire.

Pastor Richard and his wife (Sabina) and son (Mihai) were ransomed out of Russia for \$10,000 in December 1965, by the Norwegian Mission to the Jews and the Hebrew Christian and sent them to the West (America) where he appeared before a U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1966. In 1967, the Wurmbrands officially began a ministry committed to serving the persecuted church and by the mid-1980s his work was established in 80 restricted nations with offices in 30 countries around the world. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand died in 2001 and his wife (Sabina) passed away in 2000 in Romania serving the persecuted Church after communist state was lifted from Romania where they returned in 1990 after 25 years of exile.

Quote from Pastor Richard's book

"My second imprisonment was in many ways worse than the first. I knew well what to expect. My physical condition became very bad almost immediately. But we continued the work of the Underground Church where we could—in Communist prisons.

We Made a Deal: We Preached and They Beat

It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners, as it is in captive nations today. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their terms. It was a deal: we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching; they were happy beating us—so everyone was happy.”

Read the timeline of events here http://www.torturedforchrist.com/?page_id=4 and his biography here http://www.torturedforchrist.com/?page_id=5

Our Gospel is Jesus Christ and He Crucified!

Now we’re ready to look at the memory verse for this month but not without understanding first there is no gospel to preach without Jesus Christ! Our gospel is not Jesus Christ plus something else; it is Jesus Christ and he crucified, risen, and coming again! The gospel itself speaks to the death in which he (Christ) died for us miserable sinner! The things he suffered, the things he endured all for the salvation of those who would come to him by faith.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet **we** did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

The carnal, human, natural man wars against God!

As it tells us plainly in Roman 8: the *(Carnal: Greek is sarx meaning: The physical nature of man, meat, skin, body of man, human being, the flesh)* the carnal, fleshly, mind is at war with God and cannot please our Savior!

(KJV)Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

You may say, Dale, I’ve heard this all before, I know it! Then you are blessed, like so many others, whom God has chosen to reveal His marvelous truth of His dearly beloved Son! Now, let me ask you a question. What prison gates have you entered with the gospel message? I’m speaking of the prison gates of men’s hearts, which are held captive by the devil and the shackles of their own sins. These gates are not of the human eye or of a particular place, as to go here and go there! Mankind’s sin is everywhere and the domain of darkness rest in this world we live in. They (men) need the light of life, the message of hope, the beacon of heaven, Christ!

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world”, in John’s gospel

(ESV) Joh 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

Our savior left the glories of Heaven to deal with this sinful dust; men! Whom He form in his own image and blew His own breath of life, so the dust became a living soul! It is this dust, which is in total rebellion, enmity *(Rom 8:7)* with God. God is the one who created him (the dust) and form him at first as a man of God; in His own likeness He created him!

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Now with regards to the words God said: “Let us make man in our image” and “after our likeness” then the narration says “So God created man in his own image” and “in the image of God he created him”.

What you find here is the account of God’s plan before he creates man and the narration gives witness to the fact God did it as He planned. “Let us make man” is said upon the act of making man and we can see God’s plan as to how he is going to create him, “in our image, after our likeness”. This speaks to the sovereign will of God to do as he desires. It’s God that desired to create man, man is God’s thought, His creation; He is under no obligation to create him! The Lord of Heaven is at center stage in his own universe and it’s his Devine power and wisdom being displayed! Five creative days have passed and all that was created is good and on the six day the world is now ready to receive its new crowning creation of man! Man is introduce into the world not just as mere man, as though he was like the living creatures already brought forth from the earth but the word “**Let**” sounds out as in previous creative commands

Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night...

Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures...

Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds...

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...

God didn’t form man as the bird of the heavens, nor as a fish of the sea, nor like the live stock after its kind but there is a **separate proclamation** for the creation of man “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...” The reader already understands it is God from above and man being formed from below, of the dust of the earth. In verse (*Gen 1:1*) in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth speaks of creating something that wasn’t and now it is! Verse two shows God **above, over, and upon** actively in His creative work! These verses set the reader’s mind to understand God is above His creation!

Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering **over** the face of the waters.

Brown – Driver – Briggs Hebrew Definition

Hebrew: ‘al

BDB Definition:

- 1) upon, on the ground of, according to, on account of, on behalf of, concerning, beside, in addition to, together with, beyond, above, over, by, on to, towards, to, against (preposition)
 - 1a) upon, on the ground of, on the basis of, on account of, because of, therefore, on behalf of, for the sake of, for, with, in spite of, notwithstanding, concerning, in the matter of, as regards
 - 1b) **above**, beyond, over (of excess)
 - 1c) above, **over** (of elevation or pre-eminence)
 - 1d) **upon**, to, over to, unto, in addition to, together with, with (of addition)
 - 1e) over (of suspension or extension)
 - 1f) by, adjoining, next, at, over, around (of contiguity or proximity)
 - 1g) down upon, upon, on, from, up upon, up to, towards, over towards, to, against (with verbs of motion)
 - 1h) to (as a dative)
- 2) because that, because, notwithstanding, although (conjunction)

God created all dominions

We could go deeper into the understanding of God giving man dominion (*Gen 1:26*); the reader must understand that God has authority, power and dominion to give. Now, if we compare man's given dominion with Him who created it to give, what does that say of God's sovereign preeminence in relation to his creation? There are no dominions that God didn't create and He is sovereign of all of them!

Read Ephesians concerning Jesus Christ's authority, power, and dominion

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

Eph 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Eph 1:20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Eph 1:22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Again in the letter of Jude we read concerning Jesus Christ's dominion

Jud 1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

Jud 1:25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, **before all time and now and forever.** Amen.

Lets step back again (Man is create in the likeness of God)

Man is made after the likeness of God (*Gen 1:26*), and He [God] created man, so man would speak of the glories of God and the wisdom of God, in his very being, as to his makeup; mannerism, which was after the likeness of Him who created him. It should be understood he (man) was form from the earth, of his environment, of this world, of his habitat, he is terrestrial. Man didn't come down out of the heavens but he was form and brought up from the dust of the ground (the earth).

He was untainted, not blemished, he was spotless, upright and no evil was in him, he was sinless and God placed him in a choice place of His own choosing called Eden. God gave man domain over other created things with regards to the earth and called him to subdue the earth.

Man falls short of the Glory of God

(ESV) Psa 19:1 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Read Psalm 19, the heavens declare the glories of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork! But upon the earth was another story. This other story speaks against the creator; this other story speaks of man's sinful fall from the Glory of God (**(ESV) Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,) to the depravity of all humanity, which was plunged into darkness by the newly created Adam. All future humanity as a whole resided within Adam's being. The world and all its habitants were to be brought forth from Adam's loins to fulfill God's command already given "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..." There was no way God's word was to come up void that Adam would not fulfill the commission for the earthly responsibility to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth!

So when Adam was judge and condemned, even the very ground he came out of was cursed, to which he [mankind] returns to this very day! Read the tragedy of mankind's sin and the righteous judgment of God.

Gen 3:17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

Gen 3:18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Gen 3:19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the **ground**, for out of it you were taken; for you are **dust**, and to **dust** you shall **return**."

Let's go back to Romans 8, the carnal mind at enmity with God

So the fall happened and the minds of men are darkened by their sin and it is impossible for them, of themselves to see the light of the knowledge of God. Even in salvation there is a wrestling with the natural nature of man and the Heavenly creature being born from above (Romans 6).

Now we have come to our verse and its simplicity to speak of the testimony of GOD! I had to lay the ground work of the desperation and the plight of sinful man. I mean the plight of all men, none excluded! All under sin and all condemned! If I come unto you preaching nothing other than Jesus Christ and he crucified, it is absolutely necessary to understand why he was crucified! If I am to preach Jesus Christ, I must make Him known as to who he is! If I tell you he is God that became man, as in

Mat 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins."

Mat 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

Mat 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Then you can see God has not forsaken his creation concerning man but had a plan of great mercy and of great grace. If I were to preach Jesus Christ and he crucified; then you must understand why he is call **Jesus**! Why that name and how that name means savor and he shall save His people from their sins! If I am to preach Jesus Christ and He crucified; then you must understand he is the **Christ**, the son of the living God, the anointed one, messiah, as in the verse above spoken by the **prophet**! If I am to preach Jesus Christ and he crucified spoken by the prophet; then you must understand he was foretold to come and if he was foretold to come then you understand He had a purpose to come. If I am to preach Jesus Christ and he crucified; then the purpose is clear, he is crucified to save His people from their sins!

Finally, if I am to preach Jesus Christ and He crucified, then you must understand the gospel message is not just a matter facts but it's you understanding your sinful state, as God's fallen creation from his glory, because of your sin; your acts of disobedience and hatred towards God, because you are sinful. It is Jesus Christ and He crucified to saves his people from their sins. If they need to be saved from sin, which is the breaking of God's law; then it is for judgment we understand he was crucified. Now that he was crucified (*1cor.2:2*) is in the past tense, showing it has already happened, and we are left with the understanding he did no wrong! Why? Because he came to save his people from their sins not his (above verse Mat 1:21)! This speaks of his innocents and his ability to purge away his people's wrong doing! But we have not answered the big question yet. Why would Jesus Christ, the Son of God, come and save His people from their sins? Now we have come to the grace and love of God that he [Jesus Christ] has a people that he loves. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten SON that whosoever would be believe in him should not perish but have eternal life!

Now that should humble every sinner, that God would give his only son for you who sins against him! We are not excused for our sin but are forgiven by the crucified bloody body and death of his only son!

At the same time there is great joy knowing Jesus Christ and He Crucified has freed us from a penalty of all our sin, to love and serve him.

To be continued...

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your only begotten son Jesus and forgive me of my sin. Help me to remember the great cost of your son's life to forgive me of my sins. Thank you for coming Lord Jesus to die for me and saving me from my sins. Open my heart on a daily bases to do what is right in your sight. Lord like your word tells us; if we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness, so Lord forgive me for I have sinned and cleans me from my unrighteousness.

Amen

April - Part II

1Co 2:1 And when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with excellency of word or wisdom, declaring to you the Testimony of God.

[Include:] 1Co 2:2 For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him having been crucified.

“...declaring to you the testimony of God”

When you open the letter of 1st Corinthians you will find a packed, filled, greeting to the people of Corinth, to the church of God, from the beloved apostle Paul. The salutation comes from Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ, called by the will of God and he [Paul] brings with him a warm greeting from his brother Sosthenes too. I find it very happy, exciting, especially when considering there were no printing press, no television, no radio, no phone and no internet (email). Think of it, what they ventured to get this letter to their brothers in the Lord. Most likely, it was written on some type of parchment then handled by brothers just like you and me when received. Many agree the epistle was released from Ephesus around 55 A.D.

John Macarthur’s Study Bible tells us the epistle in all likelihood was written around the first half of A.D. 55 coming from Ephesus (Co 16:8, 9, 19) on Paul’s third missionary journey. It goes on to say the first Corinthians epistle gives the authorship to Paul in the first verse and internal verses (1:1, 13, 3:4-6; 4:15; 16:21).

Now slow down and get with me in this: Paul wrote it and you’re reading it! Wow, what a blessing! O’ you may say but I’m not sure he’s the guy that really wrote it, O’ hog-wash! There is more evidence placed on this letter’s authentication to be penned by Paul the apostle than you and I have time to discuss. We simply could not cover all the scholars and the early church fathers such as Ignatius (ca. A.D. 110), Polycarp (ca. A.D. 135) and Tertullian (ca. A.D. 200) that gives validation to the letter. The historicity as a collection of evidence gives us such a witness over time we dare not stand against it! We can only conclude Paul wrote it to his brothers of Corinth. It’s for you and me to hear what God has to say concerning the earthly wisdom of men’s “Sof-ee-ah” that contradicts the wisdom, knowledge and power of God!

Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

G4678

σοφία

sophia

sof-ee'-ah

From [G4680](#); *wisdom* (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual): - wisdom.

- 1Co 1:18** 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.
- 1Co 1:19** For it is written, "I will destroy the **wisdom** of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
- 1Co 1:20** Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the **wisdom** of the world?
- 1Co 1:21** For since, in the **wisdom** of God, the world did not know God through **wisdom**, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

Come and read and be invited into the first infant churches of God. Look at the conditions they overcame to give witness to the glory of God through Christ Jesus our savior. Be encouraged by the words of God through our apostle Paul! You too can be victorious through proclaiming the message Jesus Christ and He Crucified!

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/greece/corinth>

We know it's a warm greeting because letter reads as follows:

- 1Co 1:4** I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
- 1Co 1:5** that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge--
- 1Co 1:6** even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you--
- 1Co 1:7** so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 1Co 1:8** who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the very opening of the letter unto verse 9 there is no admonition of correction that we see found in the rest of the epistle but instead, we see the affirming care of the apostle for their faith God has bestowed on them. At least in my mind, it only makes sense to affirm your love before you say hard things so they (The Corinthians) may receive his [Paul's] admonition in the right spirit when listening.

You have to take a look back in time and imagine the temples that are now scattered in pieces throughout the country side of Greece. Once these were beautiful, fully, functional places of blasphemy to our God! These temples as to their architecture, design, skillful workmanship displayed the awesome wisdom of men's intellect that even to this very day the basic principles of architecture are employed from building of their time.

There was a war at Corinth of intellects and knowledge or wisdom between the wisdom that comes from above and earthly men's understanding. The bible clearly teaches there are two types of wisdom read James when he reproves the bad behavior with regards to obedience.

- Jas 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.
- Jas 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.
- Jas 3:15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
- Jas 3:16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.
- Jas 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Jas 3:18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Paul arrest the thinking of the young church; first by telling them the Testimony of Christ was confirmed in them and they did not come behind in spiritual gifts that God had bestowed on them. He reminds them of the testimony of Christ they knew and the spiritual gifts which were the demonstration of the Spirit in their own personal lives.

1Co 1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

1Co 1:5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge--

1Co 1:6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you--

1Co 1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 1:8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is at this point Paul launches off into the knowledge and the wisdom of men by pointing out their division with regards to baptism and the striving about words. He put forth his purpose so they clearly understand what is at stake by their divisions.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1Co 1:18 For the **preaching** of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

The word here for preaching is the Greek word logos [Word], so it could read the "For the Word of the Cross..."

Adam Clark's Commentary on the Bible

1Co 1:18

For the preaching of the cross - Ὁ λόγος γὰρ ὁ τοῦ σταυροῦ, The doctrine of the cross; or the doctrine that is of or concerning the cross; that is, the doctrine that proclaims salvation to a lost world through the crucifixion of Christ.

Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible

1Co 1:18

For the preaching of the cross - Greek, "the word (ὁ λόγος ho logos) of the cross;" that is, the doctrine of the cross; or the doctrine which proclaims salvation only through the atonement which the Lord Jesus Christ made on the cross, This cannot mean that the statement that Christ died "as a martyr" on a cross, appears to be foolishness to people; because, if that was all, there would be nothing that would appear contemptible, or that would excite their opposition more than in the death of any other martyr. The statement that Polycarp, and Ignatius, and Paul, and Cranmer died as martyrs, does not appear to people to be foolishness, for it is a statement of an historical truth, and their death excites the high admiration of all people. And if, in the death of Jesus on the cross, there had been nothing more than a mere martyr's death, it would have been equally the object of admiration to all people. But; the "preaching of the cross" must denote more than that; and must mean:

(1) That Christ died as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of people, and that; it was this which gave its speciality to his sufferings on the cross.

(2) That people can be reconciled to God, pardoned, and saved only by the merits and influence of this atoning sacrifice.

Once again we come to our verses found in chapter two and now they make more sense because we understand the battle this church had to face with earthly wisdom of their time and culture. This is why Paul does not mix earthly intellectualism with the message of faith towards God. The coming Christ is not about getting a better education, more knowledge, prestige, accolades of men, no on the contrary; its Devine wisdom being given men through the grace of God to see the knowledge of God displayed in the cross of Christ. Read our verses:

1Co 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Don't you see the "testimony of God" is the "testimony of Christ", they are two sides of the same coin, there synonymous as to equal. What Paul first told them in (*1st Co 1:6*) of the testimony which "was confirmed among you" is same thing he pursues into chapter two. He laid aside the high language of words and excellency of speech found within men's intellects so his message would not make void the testimony of God. You can't intellectualize someone into the kingdom of Heaven, no matter how hard you try! Men simply cannot do the work of God when it comes to salvation! This why he [Paul] would not let the wisdom of men be permitted in the preaching of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified! He knew our message [the gospel] is the vehicle of the demonstration of the power and Spirit of God, so men faith would not stand with men but God!

It's like he told them in 2nd Corinthians:

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ.

Mankind always puts their spin on the things of God, be it another gospel, religion, knowledge, teaching, education, or science. This why; our message [the gospel] finds no place with the lost because it's foolishness to them. Our gospel is a gospel of faith of which faith the lost lack because it's given by the grace of God to those who believe the testimony of God!

Eph 2:8 for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not of works, that no man should glory.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.

Our message is not complex, look at the above verse 2Co 11:3, the word "simplicity", yet the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified cannot be fully understood outside of the grace of God, the working of the Spirit of God and the Power of God to bring to light the knowledge and the glory of God in Christ Jesus!

I conclude with our beloved apostle Paul did write to his brothers in Corinth and he calls them “brothers” showing they are of the same household of God. His concern is not only with knowledge, though he reproves them of their knowledge [wisdom] but with love that is found only in Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.

Read 1Co 13

1Co 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1Co 13:8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

Who can look at the Cross of Christ and not see the love of God?

Prayer

Lord, I am not worthy but I am ever grateful for your everlasting love. Have mercy on me a weak man in need of your grace every hour. Perfect the work you have started in me through the salvation of your only begotten Son, so he may be glorified in my life. Purge away the dross and fill in its place a love for your truth, your word to be lived out in this life.

Amen.