

1 Corinthians 1.18-2.2

The Whole Christ

Congrats! Getting to SUNRISE Appetite for God...Breakfast?

EXPLORING Faith – No Better place Ground Zero > Empty Tomb

ELITE Corp Xtians = Marines! – Set-Up T, Labor God’s Field, Bless U

Seeking to Grow in Xtian > Maturity, Wisdom, Faithfulness, Understanding

WANT Go There, WONDER How? What do WE DO?

HOW we do It? Up Earlier – Control Thoughts – Better Choices – Work Harder –

Church in CORINTH One of MOST SHALLOW Founded by Ap Paul Blessed & Gifted >

Proud & Arrogant > Smug & Self-Satisfied

Celebrated Sins that wrong to Notoriously Immoral Corinthians

So PAPA PAUL writes Kids a Letter

Corinthians Quiet & AFRAID SURE Dad GOING Off on Them > Rebukes and Reprimands

INSTEAD St. Augustine = “Totus Christus”: Latin > ‘Whole Christ’

1. Fullness in Christ > *All God is and All He gives is in Jesus*
2. Freeness in Christ > *All we Receive from God is in Jesus*
3. Fruitfulness in Christ > *All we Become for God is through Jesus*

1. Fullness in Christ > *All God is and All He gives is in Jesus*

Met/Married HILO 1981, Uganda 83

30+ yrs Missions/Visited 40+ nations Lived Uganda, KZ, China

LOTS of Different Foods & FAITHS How can share JESUS w/ Neighbors

Keep Simple: 2 Religions in World

1<sup>st</sup> Huge: LOTS of Different Rituals, Holy Books, Traditions, Leaders, Legends, Differences&

Distinctives Summarized 2-Letter word > DO!

Other Religion – LESS People > Gate Narrow, Way Hard > 4 Letters > DONE! Spoken by One

DID IT – Arms Stretched Cross: Finished, Paid in Full, DONE! – all Pau Now!

**‘It’s Not About You’**

Deny Yourself, Pick Up YOUR Cross, Follow RISEN Master  
 ThemeSong Not *'I did it MY Way'* ***'Worthy is Lamb who was Slain'***

GREAT NEWS = Salvation DONE! Mission Statement Chief Spokesman

2.2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

v. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption

Righte: Right Standing before God / Sanctification: Moral Cleansing /

Redemption: Freedom from Bondage > All because He Died for Us

V. 24 Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

“every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Him” Ephesians 1.3

How DESCRIBE Follower of Jesus? Episcopalian? Baptist? Catholic?

Others Answer: Christian, Saint Disciple, Believer, Born-Again, ALL GOOD – Biblical Most Common >UNION with Christ

Description Follower of Jesus used over 100 times by Paul > ‘in Christ’

NT Descript for Followers of Jesus

Vine/Branches – Head/Body – Living Stones/Temple

TERMS emphasizes CONNECTION btwn JESUS & Benefits He GIVES

“The benefits of the gospel are in X They do not exist apart from him. They are ours only in him...cannot be abstracted from him...cannot have them without Him.”

When Disconnect Benefits of Gospel from God / GIFTS from GIVER?

Preachers Wonder: “How can I offer these benefits?” > My Ministry

Hearers: “How can I get benefits into my life?” > I gotta Search!

When Correctly Understand Christ and His Benefits are Inseparable...

Preachers Determine: “How do I faithfully preach Christ himself?”

Hearers Resolve: “How do I get X?”

Only Important Division Humanity v. 18 those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved

## 2. Freeness in Christ > *All we Receive from God is in Jesus*

Corinth eagerly Stirred Fading Embers Gk Philosophy & Wisdom Wise – Scribe – Debater of  
this Age FOUND Home in CORINTH

IF Saved by OUR Wisdom, Can Be PROUD of OUR Accomplishments

v. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in  
the world to shame the strong

World had many Teachers > But URGENTLY Needs a SAVIOR

God will NOT Offer a REMEDY for Sin that makes us MORE SINFUL

god we Think Wise is PROJECTION of Us > Exalt OUR Standards

Aren't WE WISE to THINK of Such a God & Such PLAN of Salvation!??

v. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly  
standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

Jews STONED VICTIMS > Then HUNG on TREE > God's CURSE

Cross: ROME'S Tree of CURSING Roman CITIZEN > NEVER Crucified / Scoundrels,  
Outsiders

God turns WISDOM of WORLD on HEAD > FIRST will be LAST

CROSS is Jesus' CORONATION / KING come to SAVE Sinful People

GOD Redeems & Rejoices in Freely Giving Undeserved Mercy & Grace OUTCASTS, Lepers,  
Prostitutes, Beggars, Blind Takes FOOLS like Me, All my Limitations, Sins, Ignorance >

Invited: Son / Servant

“What Conditions did WE meet in Order for God to Send Only Son?

None. Indeed there Can be NONE !

Good News Resur Not 4 Righteous or even Repentant, but to ALL

No Conditions Need to be met for ME to Offer YOU Gospel of Jesus

I cannot WAIT for you to REPENT No Power to Repent – Dead in SIN

If LOOKING for Qualified People to Hear Gospel, ALL Die Looking!

vs. 30,31 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Jesus Christ is the Good News > His DEATH & Resur is Gospel

HE is our Message to World      He LORD of All, Risen w/All Auth

includes Doctrine, Benefits of Gospel, Promised Blessings

All Summed up in Jesus: Whole X

Many Xtians > 2 Extremes:      Too Much Law/ Not ENUF Law

Many Turn from Christ > Turn INTO Legalism or Lawlessness

LEGALISM: Heart of DO Religion Rules to Keep – Points to Earn –

Praise to Receive/Positions awarded

Individual & Corporate Legalism

INDIVIDUAL: I set Standard – Measure Self by It – Criticize others

Corp: We set Standard /Measure Others /CANCEL others /Corp Legalism/ DIVIDES Churches

Lawlessness: ‘to hell with your rules...don’t tell ME what to do!’

“I have FULL FREEDOM in Christ! – No Rules, Restraints, I am church!”

Like SANG in FROZEN: “It’s time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through. No right, no wrong, no rules for me. I’m free! Let it go, let it go” “Let it Go” Idina Menzel

LEGALISM & LAWLESSNESS > Estranged Twin Sisters / Same Womb

Share the Same ROOT

Eve disobeyed God because she thought He was Keeping her from BEST

And NOT Offering her Enough > God STINGY, Not Share Best Stuff

So, Follow Another: Open Eyes & Give us Real Desires of our Hearts

A & E's Legalistic View of God > led Lawless Rebellion Against Him

ONE Leads to OTHER > BOTH from Critical, Grumbling Heart

BOTH have the SAME SOLUTION See GOD: Father, Creator, Savior

See Legalism & Lawlessness 2 Sons Jesus describes Lk 15

Younger Son > 'Hey Dad, enuf Your rules, give Me Your Money'

Fun of Lawlessness leads Loneliness

Back Home by Legalism 'Hey Dad, I need a JOB...I am really hungry!...I will WORK for It!'

Older Son: 'Hey YOU, I been keeping your rules, but I never even got a GOAT!' 'I am OUTTA Here – Not interested in Welcome Home Party for BAD Son'

2 Sons show LINK btwn Legalism/Lawlessness TWINS from Same WOMB EVIL Womb >  
Fail to DELIGHT in Loving Father – Find Joy in God & GRACE

FATHER Goes to Both Sons – Rebellious & Religious – LOVING

Invitation to Relationship NOT Rituals – Delight Not Duty – Sonship Not Slavery

Book of Common Prayer "in your service is perfect freedom"

SAME Cure > Understanding & Tasting Union with Jesus Christ

"When we behold the glory of Christ in the gospel, it reorders the loves of our hearts, so we delight in him supremely, and the other things that have ruled our lives lose their enslaving power over us."  
S. B. Ferguson, The Whole Christ

3. Fruitfulness in Christ > *All we Become for God is through Jesus*

Corinthian church Disappointed their Father – on Earth and in Heaven

Corinthian Christians came to Jesus Corinth NOT Come Out of them Yet

Shaped by their Society not Scripture

Think Holy Life starts w/ changing EXTERNAL Behavior: Stop Bad Things, Start Good Things

TRUE that is Part of HOLY Life > but NOT the MAIN Part

BIGGEST Problem Not on OUTSIDE but on INSIDE >

Heart of Problem is Problem of Heart

“The human heart has so many crannies where vanity hides, so many holes where falsehood lurks, is so decked out with deceiving hypocrisy, that it often dupes itself.” John Calvin

Couple yrs ago BJ Electric Shock on Heart correct Irregular Heartbeat

NOT Truly KNOW God until he does Massive Heart Surgery on US

Remove Heart of Stone/Replace with Heart that is SPIRIT-FILLED

Real GOING DEEP happens when MOTIVE is DELIGHT Not DUTY

Both Fathers of Corinthian church > Full CONFIDENCE in FUTURE

Reason for Confidence was NOT Corinthians but CHRIST...

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him 1 Corinthians 1.4,5

Young Palestinian, Jewish Carpenter, No Univ. Degree, No Ordination Arrested – Stripped –

Beaten – Mocked – Brutalized – Nailed to Cross – Died! CROSS? – 1 of MOST HIDEOUS

Forms of TORTURE Powerful God turns GROTESQUE Event to His Way of SALVATION

v. 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.

God CAN be TRUSTED for BEST / Freely Shares Real DELIGHT Us

Resurrection Morning > BEHOLD > FATHER Loves So Much Gave Son

SON Loves > Pays Penalty of Sin – Remove Separation / Shame

SPIRIT loves to Draw You to God

Brings Great News thru Word > Your Head & Heart

This TRIUNE God – Made You – Saves You – Seeks You > The WHOLE Christ

v. 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God

v. 31 “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”