

## KNOWLEDGE THAT IS INDISPENSABLE – I COR. 2:2

Dr. G. Arthur Woolsey

INTRO: The background of the city of Corinth

1. Paul had left Athens after his address on Mars Hill & sailed to Corinth- about a 5 hours sail.
  2. The old city had been sacked 146 BC by mercenaries (?)
  3. It has lain in ruins for 100 years
  4. Julius Caesar had recognized its strategic importance with its two harbors & had rebuilt it about 45 BC & named it. Julia Corinthus
  5. It rapidly grew to a city the size of Pittsburg, with about six hundred thousand inhabitants
  6. It became a melting pot, but was dominated by Greek influences represented by the Grecian goddess, Aphrodite
  7. It developed into a “vanity fair” the Paris of those times
  8. The immorality of the city became infamous- the worship of Aphrodite Pandemos was supported by commercialized \_\_\_\_ which saw as many as a thousand damsels consecrated to the service of Aphrodite at one time.
  9. The people were not only immoral- they were very vain & opinionated
  10. Paul found A\_\_\_ & Priscilla here & entered into partnership with them in the work of the Gospel.
  11. Crispas, ruler of the synagogue was converted, but the rest of the Jews were very bitter & \_\_\_\_ to the new procous\_\_\_ Gallio accusing him of acting contrary to the law- but the carless Gallio- with typical Roman contempt drove them from the judgement seat
  12. The first letter to the Corinthians- written from Ephesians at the end of his 3 years stay there
  13. He had heard disturbing news that strife and immorality had crept into the church, that the tongues question had gotten out of hand & that there was riotousness- even drunkenness at the Lord’s table.
  14. Against this background the Epistle had been written
- I. WHAT IS THIS INDISPENSABLE KNOWLEDGE?
- a. Jesus Christ crucified
    - i. In the background stands Mars Hill with its experiment of speaking as an educated man to educated people- as one who is wise to the wise- It had been a bitter disappointment
    - ii. Coming into the gay, gaudy, pleasure \_\_ city of Corinth- he made a resolution not to approach them on the level of human wisdom- not to speak as a sophisticate & the sophisticated- but to speak as God’s servant to lost sinners, deep in sin
    - iii. He was well educated, a learned man, he would be able to hold with the best of their philosophers but he discerned that arguments would not save sinners. That the chief med of the lost was not for mental enlightenment- but for the new birth

- iv. It was because of this he resolved to stay out of philosophical debates and to stick to the cross in the power of the Holy Ghost.
- v. Therefore he had stuck by his guns and had preached a crucified Christ
- vi. We find a similar note in the Philippian Epistle where he says that he counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ

II. THIS IS AN EMPHASIS MUCH NEEDED IN OUR TIMES

- a. We have entered into a time when great store is set by formal training
- b. Many are being deceived & are following into the trap that Paul avoided- trying to combine this world's philosophy & the Gospel- trying to employ psychology and the latest scientific methods and to be as a wise man among the wise. Alas while it may result in many finding emotional adjustment it does not produce many genuine, old fashion of conversions
- c. Our sophisticated times need the same message & the same methods that Paul used are Corinth- the preaching of the cross in the power of the Holy Ghost. Not a complicated, involved, psychologically slanted message but a principle straightforward preaching of a crucified savior.
- d. It is true that people are frustrated, mixed up, tangled up and confused but it is because they do not really from Christ

CONC: Christ crucified is the knowledge that is indispensable, other learning is fine if it is not at the expense of this first and great fundamental. Knowing a crucified, risen savior is the only way dying men and women, boys and girls will ever get to heaven- There is not much sense or glory in going to Hell with a \_\_\_\_

Invitation.

\_\_\_\_ Bible Class of 60 in Johnstown, PA- only 18 \_\_\_\_\_ the following Sunday.

This sermon outline is being provided for your personal study. It is part of a project to transcribe and preserve the personal sermon notes of Dr. G. A. Woolsey who has gone home to be with our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. More info can be found at: [gawoolsey.onewhitedove.com](http://gawoolsey.onewhitedove.com)