

Understanding “understanding” – Full Gospel, Empty Minds?

Family Camp 2008





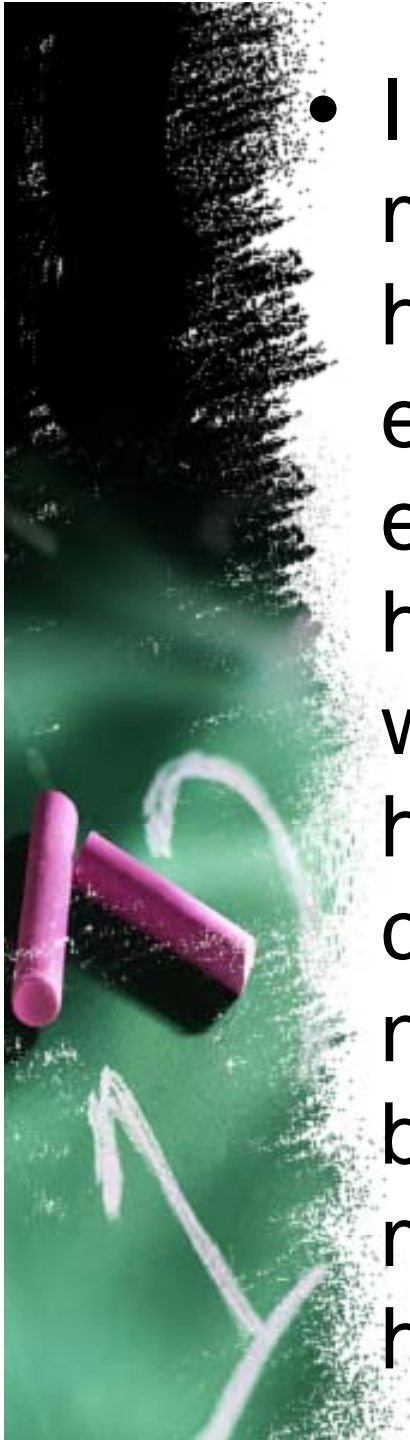
**Why have Pentecostals
traditionally been
anti-intellectual?**

**What are the consequences
of this attitude?**

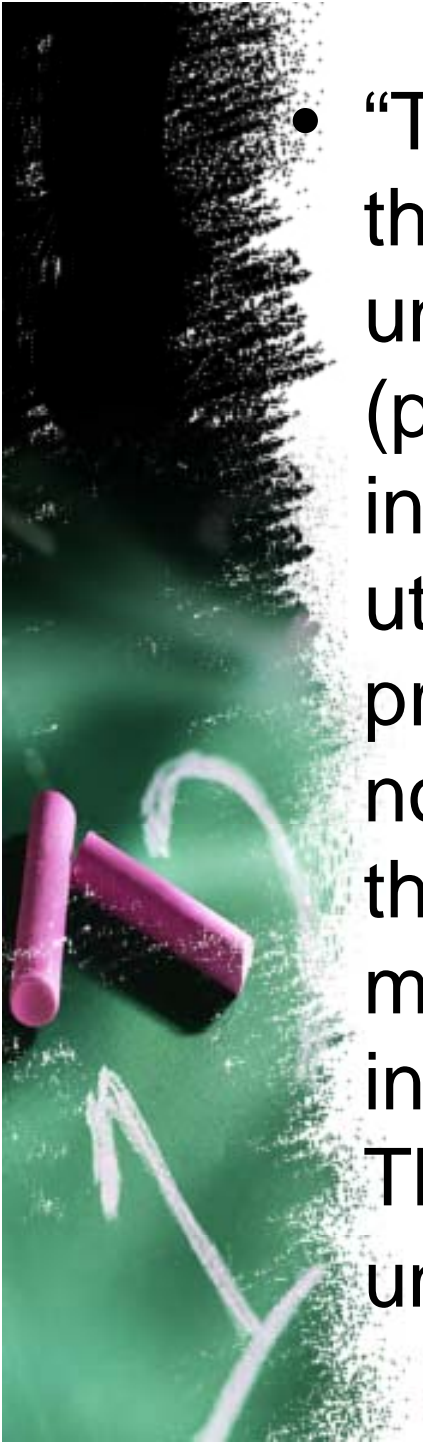


From Charles Parham:

- “A Baptist preacher said to a friend of mine: ‘Now don’t become crazy about this. I have been through college, and I know it is impossible for anybody to speak in other or foreign languages unless he has learned them.’ This preacher had a Ph.D., D.D., and L.L.D., on the rear end of his name and a Rev. in front of it. My friend came to me in trouble and said: “What shall I do about this?”



- I challenged that preacher to come to my school for just one week. I promised him a post-graduate course that would enable him to put another degree on the end of his name. I would have gotten him so humble before God, and so willing to let God use him, that he would have come out of the post-graduate course with A.S.S. on the end of his name. Could I have gotten him to become as humble as was Balaam's mule, God would have talked through him in tongues."

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- “The present Pentecost is not only given as the sign of a believer, the sign to unbelievers, the power to witness (prophecy) only in your own language, but in other tongues as the Spirit giveth utterance...so that we can sing, pray, and preach “in the Spirit” as a “gift of tongues,” not a “gift of brains.” God, the church, and the world are tired of listening to these modern preachers while they whittle intellectual shavings and theological chips. They want REALITY, a message from under the Throne...”



William J. Seymour

- “There have been those who have sought for the baptism and could not get it, because they did not come humbly as a little babe. They did not give up their doctrines and opinions; they did not empty out so they could get the filling. This is not revealed to our great theologians...”

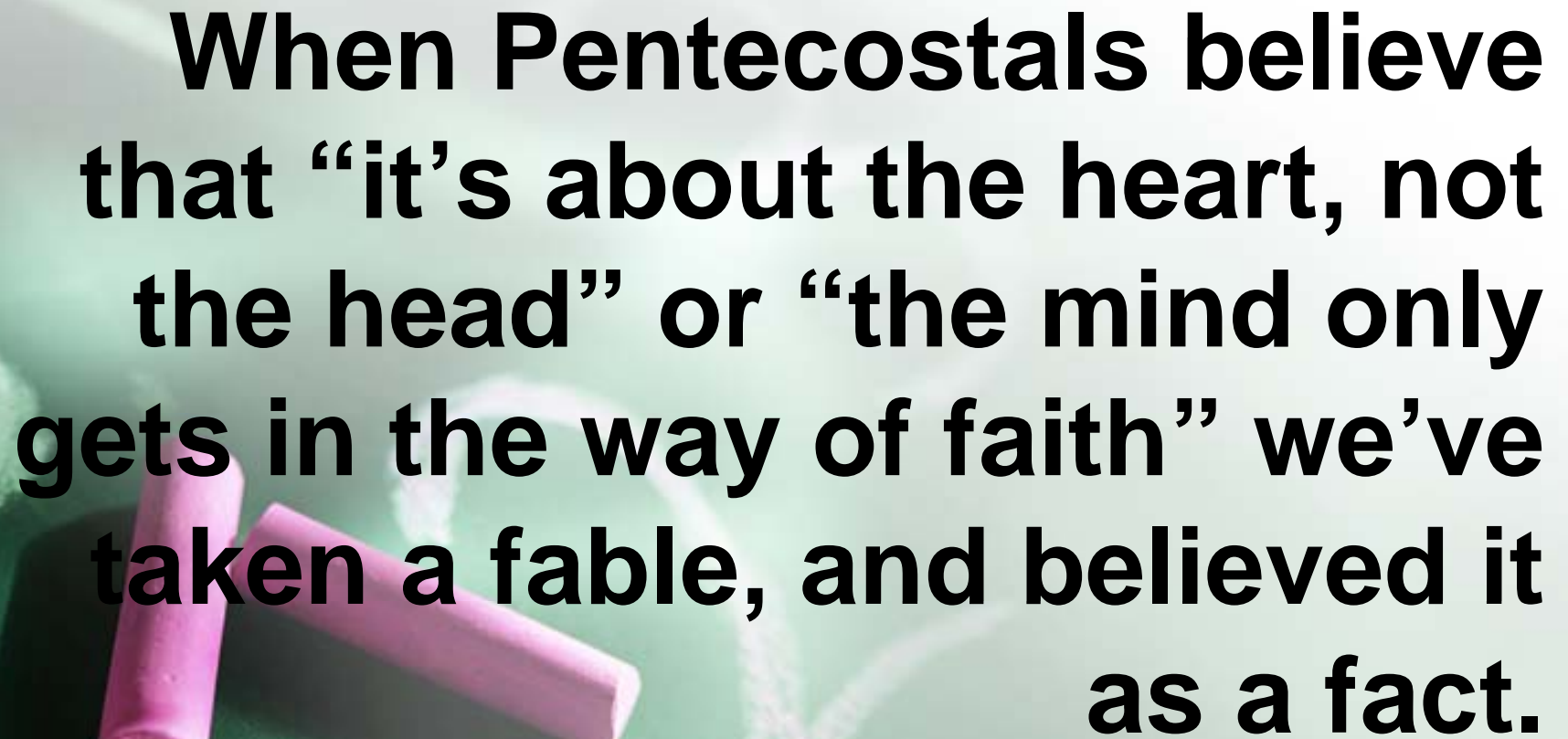


- When we received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the power came down in such a mighty way, and after a time people began to consider and got us to talking thought. But what are we that will put straps and bands on the Holy Ghost, when the Lord comes and finds and thrills us with the Holy Ghost? Just because it is not our power shall we quench it and hold it down? Let us be free in the Holy Ghost and let Him have right of way...



Facts or Fables:

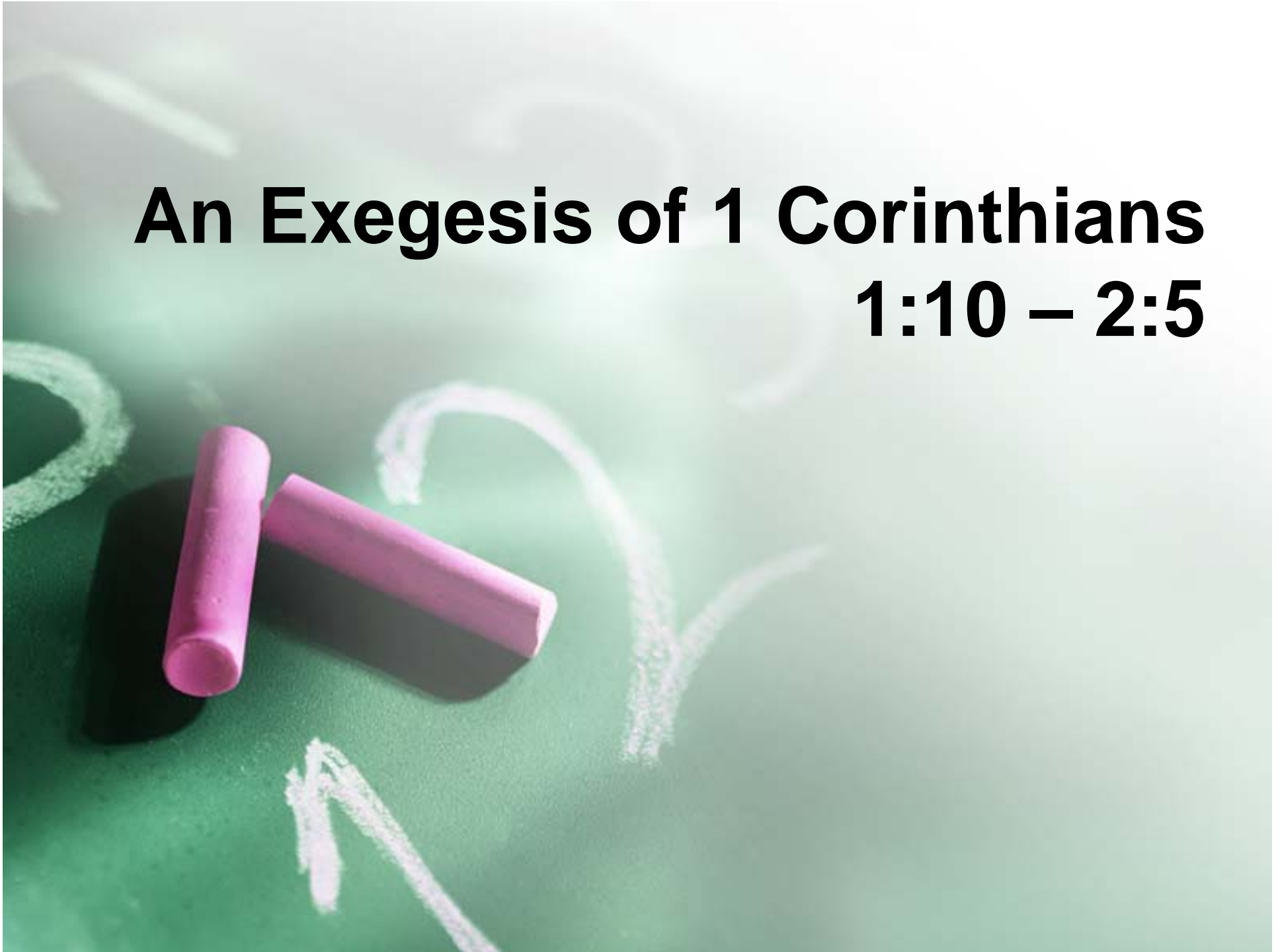
- Three wise men visited baby Jesus
- Delilah cut Samson's hair
- Absalom was caught in a tree by his hair
- The mark placed on Cain was a curse or judgment
- God limited Noah to 2 of every kind of animal
- Money is root of all evil
- The Ark rested on Mt. Ararat

A green chalkboard with two pieces of pink chalk and some faint white chalk markings. The text is overlaid on the right side of the board.

When Pentecostals believe that “it’s about the heart, not the head” or “the mind only gets in the way of faith” we’ve taken a fable, and believed it as a fact.

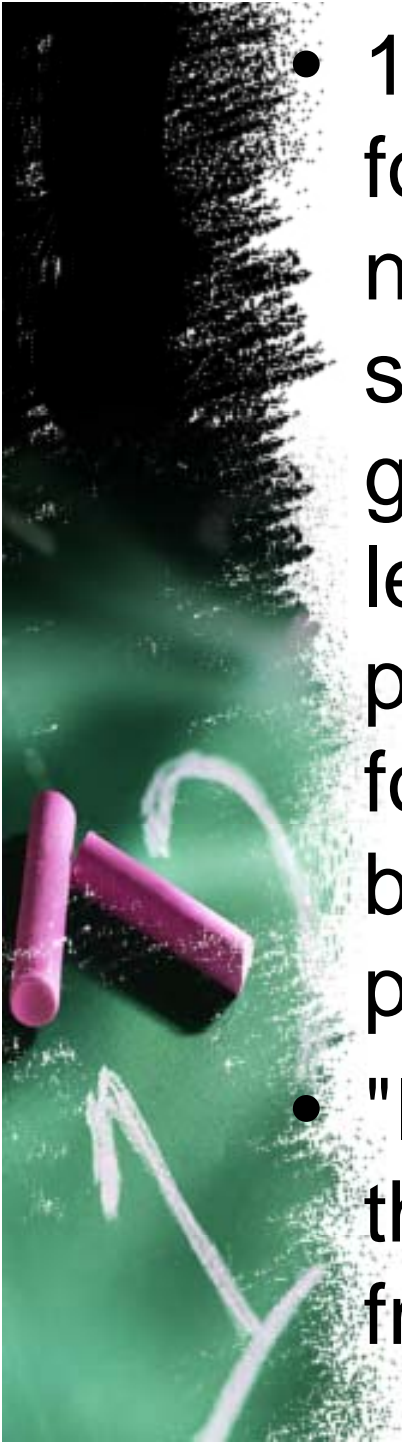
An Exegesis of 1 Corinthians

1:10 – 2:5





- 1 Cor 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

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- 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel-not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:
 - "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."



- 20 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? 21 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. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,



- 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. 27 [For] God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.



- 1 Cor 2:1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.



A closer look:

- Paul begins by thanking God and complimenting the Corinthians for their richness of *knowledge*. He reveals that his purpose in writing to them is that “you may be united in *mind and thought*.” (1:10-11)
- The focus of this chapter is those who are pitting personalities against one another, hoping to “be someone” by their association with a “rising star.”



- Paul states this conduct is “worldly” and they are acting as “mere men”
- Some of these believers are now despising Paul (4:1,6,18; 9:1-27) and are tempted to view his message of the cross as too elementary for them
- Paul reminds them that it wasn’t by their wisdom that they received Christ
- Paul is not condemning human wisdom. He is condemning humanity’s attempt to define salvation outside of the Cross of Christ.



- “God doesn’t stigmatize secular learning, philosophical acumen, scholarly endeavour, or marked intelligence. But he does condemn *trusting for salvation* in any belief system other than “faith in his grace through the cross of Christ.” That is why Paul purposed to preach only this message when he stayed among them (2:2), and this is why he didn’t use the emotional form of rhetorical persuasion often used by hired speakers. Paul is well aware that feelings-based,



- psychological manipulation is a powerful tool; remember that he grew up on Tarsus where the schools were recognized for their expert training in the art of persuasive speaking. Paul knew that by beguiling his hearers emotionally, the power of his message would be emptied.”

- Rick M. Nanez

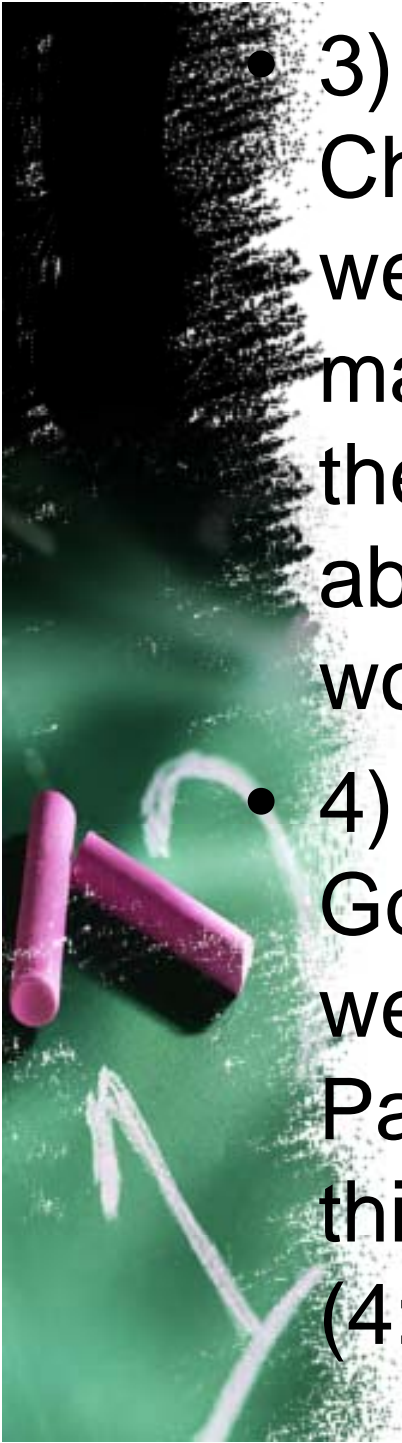


- Paul is not against persuasion or argumentation. When he first preached in Corinth, he “reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.” (Acts 18: 4,19)
- Finally, note that miracles (1:22) are among the culprits that can hinder belief in Christ, as are the intellect (1:19), scholarship (1:20), philosophy (1:20), and wisdom (1:21). Each of these is an impediment only when emphasized above the work of the Cross.



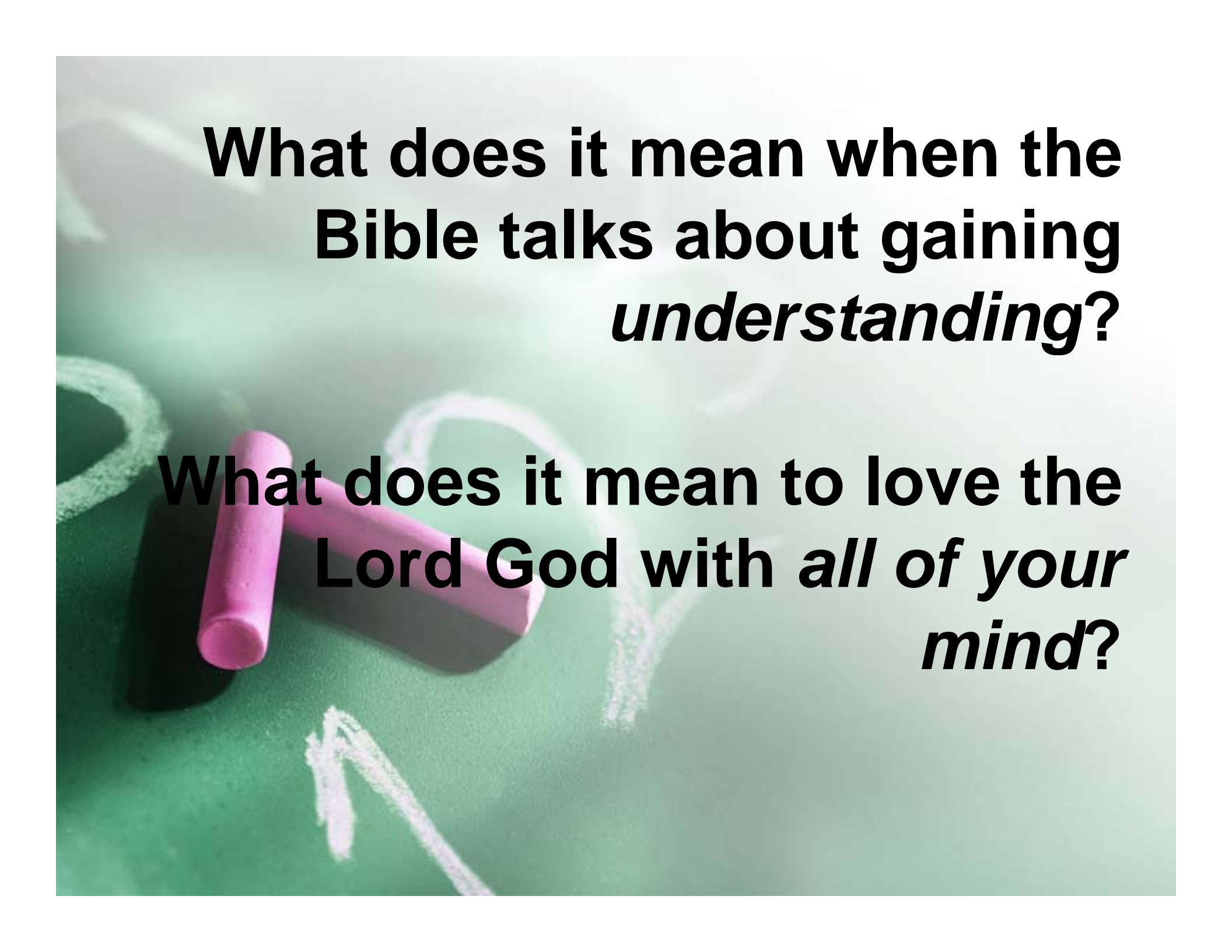
5 lessons from this passage:

- 1) The focus of 1 Corinthians 1 is not centered on the negative character of the intellect, learning, miracles, and philosophy; rather, it focuses on the problem of wrong attitudes about them
- 2) There's a danger of emptying the cross of power in one's life by constantly asking for supernatural signs before obeying God's word.

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- A chalkboard with a dark green background. On the left side, there are two pieces of pink chalk, one standing upright and one lying horizontally. Below the chalk, there are white chalk drawings: a curved line and a straight line with an arrowhead pointing upwards and to the right.
- 3) We who belong to the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement tend to possess a weakness for following personalities. Too many chase after the man or woman of the hour because of their “supernatural” abilities. God declares that this too, is worldly.
 - 4) Because Pentecostals have witnessed God’s power, there’s a temptation to think we’ve arrived, or have a superior attitude. Paul has a few things to say to those who think they have “already become Kings” (4:8)



- 5) “When we substitute loud, shallow preaching with little substance for rich exposition, when we deem that answering an altar call equals salvation, and when we rely on emotional manipulation or heart-tugging music to fill the altar, we are in danger of doing what Paul refused to do. The “eloquence” to which he refers in 2:1,4 is reliance on atmosphere and emotional finesse rather than on the content or truth of Christ’s message.” Nanez.

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**What does it mean when the
Bible talks about gaining
understanding?**

**What does it mean to love the
Lord God with *all of your
mind*?**



Loving God with your mind

- Matt 22:34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
- 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

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How do we love God with our minds?

By seeking
understanding



How do we gain understanding?

- Ps 119:130 The unfolding of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
- Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
- all who follow his precepts have good understanding.



- Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom,
 - and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

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Prov 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”



The Importance of the Mind

- Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.



The Importance of the Mind

- Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the ***renewing of your mind.*** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.



The Importance of the Mind

- Rom 14:13
- 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.



We are commanded to know what we believe and why

- 1 Tim 4:16 ***Watch your life and doctrine closely.*** Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.
- 2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and ***who correctly handles the word of truth.***



Know what you believe

- 1 Tim 2:3 This...pleases God our Savior, 4who wants all men to be saved ***and*** to come to a knowledge of the truth.



Discernment is linked to our knowledge

- Phil 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more ***in knowledge and depth of insight,*** ***10so that you may be able to discern*** what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ***11*** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God.



Conclusion:

- Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...*
- Prov 4:7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.



A Week of Teaching:

- Sunday: Understanding “understanding”
- Monday: Christology
- Tuesday: Holy Spirit
- Wednesday: Faith and Healing
- Thursday: Prophecy
- Friday: End Times
- Saturday: History of Pentecostalism
- Sunday: Spirit-baptism OR The Lord’s Supper