Let’s explore this important statement.

In 1 Corinthians 2:2, Paul says:

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

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, emphasizing that when he first came to them, his primary focus was on Jesus Christ’s person and His crucifixion. Simply put, Paul’s goal was:
“When I came to you, I wanted to understand what you already knew about Jesus Christ—especially the fact that He was crucified—and nothing else.”

Paul’s focus on *“Jesus Christ and him crucified”* highlights the centrality of the Cross in Christian faith. The crucifixion is not just an event in history but the heart of the gospel message (the *kerygma*). As Paul emphasizes elsewhere:

1 Corinthians 1:18

> “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.”

Paul’s intention was to ensure the Corinthians understood the gospel clearly—not distracted by philosophical arguments or human wisdom.

Why focus on the crucified Christ?

Because true Christian faith rests on knowing Jesus as the crucified Savior who died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). If faith is based on anything else—like human wisdom, eloquence, or miracles alone—it is unstable and incomplete.

Paul states in 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

> “When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

This shows Paul’s rejection of worldly wisdom in favor of the gospel’s simple but profound truth.

Faith based on miracles vs. faith in the crucified Savior

If the Corinthians only believed because of signs and wonders (miracles), their faith would be shallow and dependent on external proof. Jesus Himself warned against this kind of faith:

John 6:26

> “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”

True faith is in Jesus as the crucified and risen Lord, which leads to repentance and transformation.

The effect of understanding Jesus as the crucified Savior

Such faith is solid and life-changing. It leads to repentance and a

desire to obey God’s will. This obedience is the evidence of genuine faith, which ultimately opens the way to eternal life. Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21-23

> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Application for us today:

The key is to hold firmly to that foundational faith—the “mother faith”—which centers on Jesus Christ crucified. This faith purifies us and keeps us from sin (1 John 3:3), guiding us to live lives pleasing to God.

May the Lord help us keep this faith strong, and may He richly bless us all.

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