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"For I determined not to know anything among you
save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2

## *The Opening of the Words, and the Doctrine Gathered and Explained*

"I determined not to know anything among you." Saint Paul, having preached plainly among the learned Corinthians, and not with the enticing words of man's wisdom or excellence of speech, as in verse 1, they began to sleight him as unlearned and his preaching as good, honest, dry matter. But in this verse he gives the reason why he did not sore aloft with high speculations, but was so familiar in his preaching, stooping to the capacity of the meanest. "You preach yourselves, but I preach Jesus Christ. You preach for ostentation to get applause from men, but I preach for edification to bring souls to Christ. And hence it is that you preach with puffed up eloquence, high-flown phrases, and swelling

words of vanity, but I preach in the plain evidence of the Spirit because I desired to know nothing (that is, to preach nothing) among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

In the words there are three parts. First, the object of Paul's desire, which is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Second, the act that is conversant about this object, and that is to know Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Third, Paul's determination and resolution: He was determined or desired to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

I shall first give you a brief explication of the words and then lay down one general doctrine or conclusion from them.

"I desired or determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ," that is I esteemed no other knowledge excellent, nor myself worthy estimation for any other knowledge, save only for the knowledge of Christ.

"To know nothing but Jesus Christ" does not mean that Paul condemned all other knowledge and human learning in arts and sciences wherein he was so accomplished, being the great doctor of the Gentiles, and could speak tongues more than they all, but so far as it stood in competition with the knowledge of Christ, or in opposition against or in comparison of the knowledge of Christ, and winning souls unto Him.

"Among you." Even you learned Corinthians, whom though otherwise I acknowledge to be