

# 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

## “A Simple Message, Spoken Simply, By A Simple Man”

- In a city so full of sinful pride, so full of intellectual arrogance, Paul was faced with:
  - Depending upon his debating skills
  - Depending upon his in-filling of the Holy Spirit.
- So, Paul came with speech:
  - That was simple and direct concerning the cross of Christ. (vs. 1-2)
  - That was in weakness, fear and trembling (vs. 3)
  - That demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 4-5)

**1** And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

**2 Corinthians 10:10** “For *his* letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but *his* bodily presence is weak, and **his speech contemptible.**”

- *A certain church had a beautiful stained-glass window just behind the pulpit. It depicted Jesus Christ on the cross. One Sunday there was a guest minister who was much smaller than the regular pastor. A little girl listened to the guest for a time, then turned to her mother and asked, “Where is the man who usually stands there so we can’t see Jesus?”*<sup>1</sup>

**2** For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

- Literally, “**For I did not decide** to know anything among you.” Paul means that he did not think it fit or his business to know anything for his message beyond this “mystery of God.”<sup>2</sup>

**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.

- *The itinerant philosophers and teachers depended on their wisdom and eloquence to gain followers. The city of Corinth was filled with such “spellbinders.” Paul did not depend on eloquent speech or clever arguments; he simply declared God’s Word in the power of the Spirit. **He was an ambassador, not a “Christian salesman.”***<sup>3</sup>

**3** I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

- With so little success at Mar’s Hill in Athens Paul made sure they knew:

<sup>1</sup>Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (1 Co 2:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

<sup>3</sup>Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (1 Co 2:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

- Paul was not your typical Grecian orator that prided himself in his own speaking ability.
- Paul was a simple man, a common man that had the same fears of speaking to groups as we all do. Hoping that the Holy Spirit would bring fruit.
- Paul understood that in the weakness of his flesh, God's grace would come shining through.

**4** And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,  
**5** that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- **Demonstrate the Spirit**

- Prophetic utterance

**1 Corinthians 14:3-4**

**3** But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

**4** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

- **Demonstrate the power of God**

- Every time a heart is moved, a soul is saved, a miracle occurs.
- *It is necessary in the local church for the pastor and teachers to declare the Gospel to the lost, but it is also important that they teach God's wisdom to those who are maturing in the faith. It is impossible to build a strong church on the preaching of the Gospel alone; there must be the teaching of the plan and "mystery" of God. (A mystery is a truth hidden in the ages past revealed by the Spirit to those who belong to God's family. It is a "family secret" known only to the initiated, not the outsiders.)*<sup>4</sup>

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-5**

**2** We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

**3** remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

**4** **knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.**

**5** For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also **in power, and in the Holy Spirit** and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7**

**6** Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift of God which is in you** through the laying on of my hands.

**7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, **but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

<sup>4</sup>Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.