

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: The Power of God is Our Courage to Speak

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 1:30 -

I. PURPOSEFULLY-PLAIN, YET POWERFUL PREACHING THAT BOASTS IN THE LORD

1) How Paul preached... with simplicity, authenticity, and utter dependency.

2 Corinthians 12:9b-10 -

Note: People don't need to hear about every success you've ever had, every time you've knocked it "out of the park". It's often much more beneficial, instructive, and encouraging to hear how God has worked in our fears, our failings, and our weaknesses. In this way we can have our hearts and minds continually lifted up to see the grace and power of God.

2) What Paul preached... everything from the foundation of Christ and His redemptive work.

Note: Paul's words here (in verse 2) are meant to emphasize and stress the centrality and supremacy of Christ and to underscore what Jesus has accomplished for His people!

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 -

3) Why Paul preached this way... so that his hearers would know and trust the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:12 -

Note: While it's true that chapter 2 verse 4 is the first explicit, direct mention of the Holy Spirit, Paul has used this word "power" (in Greek "δυναμις" - dunamis) several times already to refer to salvation (verse 18) and to Christ Himself (verse 24).

Question: Are you willing to follow Paul's example?

II. GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE ALL-KNOWING, GRACIOUS REVEALER

A. The “Wisdom” of the World:

- 1) The “wisdom” of the world will not last or endure.
- 2) Those who follow the “wisdom” of the world (even the “rulers of this age”) are doomed.
- 3) The “wisdom” of the world is really ignorance because it fails to understand the glory of Christ.

B. The Wisdom of God - The Wisdom of the Cross:

- 1) The wisdom of God can only be known and loved by those who are “mature” (spiritually alive).
- 2) The wisdom of God has been decreed from eternity past and now revealed in Christ!
- 3) The wisdom of God should humble us because we have received it freely through the Spirit.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. According to 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, what was Paul’s preaching like? Why was Paul not afraid or ashamed to talk about his weakness, fear, and trembling?
2. According to 1 Corinthians 2:5, why did Paul preach this way?
3. How does Paul’s example encourage and instruct us in how we should share the Gospel?
4. According to 1 Corinthians 2:6-9, what are some characteristics of worldly wisdom and of God’s wisdom? What does worldly wisdom result in? What does God’s wisdom lead to?
5. How does 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 move us to humility, worship, and gratitude?