

Christ And Him Crucified

(Part 1)

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Context

Paul came not with: 1 Corinthians 2:1

"Excellency of speech" - refers to holding "one's self above ... to be superior" (Bullinger, 266). Paul wanted to avoid this emphasis upon himself.

"Wisdom" - refers to the methods and styles of speaking employed by orators in Paul's day to bring honor to themselves. cf. 1 Corinthians 2:4 cf. Verse 5; cf. James 3:1, 13ff

Context

What then, was Paul's method of preaching?

1 Corinthians 2:2-3 "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling."

2 Corinthians 4:5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

1 Corinthians 1:23 "but we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumblingblock, and unto Gentiles foolishness"

Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*"

Emphasizes the message more than the messenger.

- ▶ Paul did not want to be the focal point. cf. *1 Corinthians 1:10ff; 3:1ff; Galatians 4:17*
- ▶ Follow Paul only as he followed the Lord. *1 Corinthians 11:1*
- ▶ Paul's opinion of himself. *Ephesians 3:8*
- ▶ Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*" doesn't emphasize ME.

Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*"

Emphasizes the horror of sin.

- ▶ Christ died "*for our sins*" (*1 Corinthians 15:3*)
- ▶ Sin separates:
 - Man from God. *Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 Peter 3:12*
 - It separates us from God in eternity. *Matthew 25:30, 41, 46*
- ▶ Sin is incompatible with God. *2 Corinthians 6:14ff*
- ▶ God is Righteous. *Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2, 5*
- ▶ God is just to bring wrath against sinners. *Romans 3:5-8; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:11*
- ▶ God has provided & revealed salvation for all sinners. *2 Peter 3:9*
- ▶ Loves & provides escape. *Romans 5:6-11*

Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*"

Emphasizes what God has done.

NOTE: *Ephesians 2:1-22.*

- ▶ Man's great need. *Ephesians 2:1-3*
- ▶ God's great mercy, grace, and love have opened the way for man to be saved. *Ephesians 2:4-10.*
- ▶ In the death of Christ, men may be reconciled to God and to one another "*in one body, by the cross*" *Ephesians 2:11-16*
- ▶ This "*one body*" (*the church, Ephesians 1:22-23*), *was purchased by the blood of the cross (Acts 20:28).*
- ▶ We are a part of it "*by faith*" *Ephesians 2:8, Active obedient faith (James 2:17; Acts 2:38)*

Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*"

Emphasizes what man must do.

"*What must I do to be saved?*" is asked three times in the New Testament (Acts 2:37; 9:6; 16:30).

- Hear. John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17
- Believe. Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24
- Repent. Acts 17:30; I Corinthians 6:9-11
- Confess. Romans 10:9-10
- Baptism. Acts 2:38

Preaching "*Christ and Him crucified*"

Includes:

- ▶ Preaching man's need to be saved.
- ▶ Preaching God's mercy, grace, and love in providing for man's need.
- ▶ Preaching the cross of Jesus as the means of salvation.
- ▶ Preaching the church, the body of Christ, as the reconciled people of God.
- ▶ Preaching obedience to the gospel of Christ.

▶ No wonder Paul gloried in "*Christ and Him Crucified!*"