

MAN'S WISDOM IS WEAK

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

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

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

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.

INTRODUCTION

Everyone would rather be thought of as wise rather than foolish. It has been said, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." However, the average person tries hard to make the right impression on others in the attempt to look wise. This desire crosses the mind of everyone in every area of life regardless of the age group, social group, or Christian group.

Where do we find true wisdom? Is it from humans or from God? How should the Christian react after following God's wisdom that looks foolish in the eyes of our friends and family? These are the things Paul tried to help the Corinthians with and are similar to the things we face today.

In verses 1 and 2, Paul states that he is aware that he didn't come strong in his style or in the wisdom of God in the public forum. He realizes that he didn't know much about the people he was speaking to or the situations they faced on a daily basis. He was only aware of one thing; they were sinners in need of a Savior.

There are preachers today that have a good word, but are unable to present it in such a way as to impress the people to whom he is preaching. Then there are some preachers that have great style and make good impressions, but lack the spiritual word to edify the people of God. The people walk away feeling good but don't have anything of substance with which to hang on.

What are some things that may cause sincere, committed people of God to slip accidentally into approaches that impress people with the packaging of the Gospel rather than the message the Gospel brings? In other words, fish can be fooled into hanging around a false lure until they're caught. Do we want to attract the lost to our church or to Christ?

In verse 3 Paul admits he came in weakness and in fear and trembling. I don't believe Paul had fear **of** the people he spoke to or the local authorities, I believe Paul had fear **for** them. He knew his message was a true life or death message and he had the mind of Christ in that he didn't want any man to perish (II Peter 3:9).

In verses 4 Paul declares the message of the Gospel of Christ doesn't need to be embellished or be used in local experiences for context. This is using man's wisdom. God-given personality and powers of persuasion can be used properly to draw people to the Word of God. However, using persuasion and personality can get in the way if the sermon or message has more to do with the messenger than the message. As a wise preacher once said, ***"one sermon cannot express both that the preacher is clever and that Christ is mighty to save."*** Something similar can be said of praise and worship services that entertain more than convict or bless God.

In verse 5 it is clear that Paul is not really concerned with his communication skills but it is his concern that Corinthians know from where their strength and faith comes. If Paul had skillful oratory, the people may have desired to become more Paul-like than Christ-like! Perhaps Apollos' ability to speak was so gifted that people began to identify with him rather than Christ. (I Cor. 1:12)

Next week – **I Cor. 2: 6-9 GOD'S WISDOM IS CONCEALED**

