

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians

Determined to Know Only Christ Crucified

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1. **A Superior Message** (vs.1,4)

Paul repudiates both the standard and the importance of worldly wisdom by reminding the Corinthians of his own conduct when he first brought the Christian gospel to them (cf. Acts 18:4-8). He was utterly confident that God would use the straight-forward preaching of the gospel of Christ to save sinners (cf. Rom. 10:8-15).

2. **A Singular Focus** (v.2)

Though undoubtedly there were many things that Paul could have emphasized during his eighteen months in Corinth, his mission was to make Jesus known. His intentional single-mindedness now serves as a helpful reminder for the church to focus on what is most important (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17).

3. **A Subdued Manner** (v.3)

Paul had been physically assaulted (Acts 14:19-20; 16:22), imprisoned (Acts 16:23-24), and run out of town (Acts 17:5-10) because of his proclamation of the gospel prior to coming to Corinth. This had effected him to such a degree that he was fearful and required God's comfort and encouragement to remain in Corinth (Acts 18:9-11). Any physical weakness or emotional distress that Paul was dealing with was at least partly the result of persecution, but he intentionally conducted himself in fleshly weakness (cf. v.26) and in reverence for God (cf. Acts 2:43; 1 Pet. 3:15) while he was with them.

4. **A Solid Foundation** (v.5)

An intended result of Paul's focus upon the straight-forward preaching of the gospel message was that the believers' confidence would be upon the transformative power of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5; cf. John 3:5-8; 1 Pet. 1:23) and not in the rhetorical prowess of the preacher. There are many dangers if one is not careful to build upon the proper foundation (cf. Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:10-15).