

I. Introduction: Paul argues that the power of the Gospel message is found in the cross of Christ, and not in the persuasive words of human philosophy or worldly reason.

- A. Paul admitted his total dependence upon God for preaching Jesus. He knew that it was only when he did not rely on himself, that the Holy Spirit used him powerfully.

II. The Power of Preaching Jesus (1 Cor 2:1-9).

A. It Revolves around Jesus' Cross (vv. 1-2).

1. Paul didn't emphasize eloquence in preaching like the philosophers of Corinth, rather he focused on preaching the cross of Jesus, and His resurrection.

B. It Relies on God's Spirit (vv. 3-5).

1. Paul said that when he came to Corinth, he was a broken man. He had been humbled, so he relied heavily on the Holy Spirit for supernatural power.

C. It Rests in God's Wisdom (vv. 6-9).

1. Salvation was purchased by the Son, but it was planned by the Father. That plan was not revealed to the men of this age, but God hid it from them.

III. Conclusion: The power of the Gospel rests in preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified, a message which the Holy Spirit empowers and God illuminates.

Questions About: The Power of Preaching Jesus

1. What kind of preaching does God bless? What was Paul's strategy when he preached? How did he preach in Corinth? **(1 Cor 1:23; 2:2)** What should a pastor's preaching focus on?
2. What did Paul say negatively about his preaching? **(1 Cor 2:1-2)** What does this tell you about the Corinthians? Who was a great orator in Corinth? **(Acts 18:24-19:1)**
3. What did Paul preach about? **(1 Cor 2:2)** Why was he "determined" to preach this message? Why was the message of the cross foolish to the Corinthians? **(1 Cor 1:21-25)**
4. Why was Paul afraid when he came to Corinth? **(1 Cor 2:3-5)** Does it surprise you that Paul was intimidated? What did God say to Paul to encourage him? **(Acts 18:9-11)**
5. Who was empowering the message that Paul preached? **(1 Cor 2:3-5)** How did the Holy Spirit demonstrate His power? **(1 Cor 1:21; 6:9-11)** Why was this important to God? **(v. 5)**
6. Whose plan was Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? **(1 Cor 2:6-9; Acts 2:22-23)** Why did people not understand God's plan? **(v. 7)** How long ago did God plan the cross? **(v. 7)**
7. Who were the rulers Paul mentions? **(1 Cor 2:6-9)** Why did they not understand God's plans? **(Mark 8:14-21; Matt 13:10-16; 16:17)** Why was it impossible? **(Matt 19:23-26)**
8. How do we need to preach Christ, and Him crucified? Are you scared of looking foolish to the world? Are you ashamed of proclaiming the Gospel? **(Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 1:7, 12)**

Prayer

1. Pray that God might help you to preach Christ to those who do not know Him.
2. Pray that God would open the eyes, ears, hearts, and minds of unbelievers to receive Jesus.