

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 2:1-7

- After writing the Church at Corinth about avoiding having factions within the Church that will cause disunity with its members, Paul is going to continue his discourse on mixing man's wisdom with God's revealed message. Today we also are living in a time where people wrongly believe that they can weave their own philosophies and ideas into God's Word, producing a hybrid message that really is no gospel at all.

V1-7

- **V1-2** remember at the end of chapter 1 Paul said “**that no flesh should glory in His presence, and He who glories, glory in this The Lord**”. That meant a true gospel message will not glorify man, but it will point people to Jesus and not start some religious fan club promoting one person, or some spiritual or political group.
- So when Paul arrived in Corinth he did away with any flowery speeches, nothing fancy or eloquent, just straight to the point, as one of the most attractive things about the gospel which seems to be lost today is its simplicity. I can't tell you how refreshing it was when someone came told it straight to me, not some story, or elaborate tell, wrapped up in some empty promises, but real everyday truth.
- In doing so Paul didn't come to them as a philosopher or salesman; he came as a witness, (declaring to them the testimony of God). Is that not what **Acts 1:8** says we will be when you receive Jesus as Lord and The Holy Spirit comes and lives inside us. We'll be witnesses of God's truth, not a salesperson, or philosopher, trying to convince people of what were saying is true, instead we will be examples of that truth, so there won't be anything fake about you, only that which is genuine.
- For that to happen the gospel message can't be about you, Paul said he had to determine, or make a conscious decision that he would put the emphasis on Jesus Christ and Him crucified. In doing this Paul is an ambassador of Christ not a salesman, as he already knew that the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom, but he doesn't care, He gives them Jesus and Him crucified.

- Most ministers go to school and learn how to give their audience or congregations what they want to hear, Paul doesn't ascribe to that false philosophy, as he doesn't give them what they want to hear, but what they needed for the saving of their souls.
- **V3-5** not only did Paul not come trying to persuade anyone with his words but he also wasn't trying to impress anyone with his appearance either. Today that's a no no, preachers must not only be impressive orators they also must look the part as well or they won't look worthy of anyone following them.
- Universities teach preachers how to enter a room and entice a crowd, to brim with self confidence, and unfortunately be self reliant, and eventually become self absorbed. Self reliance is a poison that God wants all His people to avoid, and it starts with accepting and understanding your own personal limitations.
- Paul says he was weak and afraid, no self reliance here, and his words and appearance reflected that, this caused the people to not focus on the messenger but on the message. As once Paul accepted his own weakness then the strength of The Lord began to flow right through him, and it was unmistakable that it was God speaking through him and not Paul himself.
- **Philip 4:13**- what makes things possible for me is not my awareness of my strength but of my weakness, and then my reliance upon God is where my strength, which is actually His, flows from. Then instead of trusting in persuasive words and worldly wisdom which come from our natural talents you will trust in the Spirit of God to work in your heart and demonstrate itself through your life Amen!
- **V6-7** Paul lets us know that not everyone is going to receive this message, only those who are surrendered to The Spirit can receive the wisdom from The Spirit. For notice this wisdom doesn't come from this world, it didn't originate from here, so the people, the rulers of this world is going to scoff or mock what you are saying.
- **Eph 3:8-13** Paul refers to his preaching of the gospel to the gentiles as “**a mystery**” it was wisdom that was hidden from the naked eye, the hardened heart, only those who humbled themselves and accepted their weaknesses would have their eyes opened and their hearts able to receive this amazing truth. But the world in all its pride, they will not accept this message as truth, but will attack and discredit it.

