

L61 | I Corinthians | The Power of The Kingdom of God | I Cor. 4:18-21

I. Intro/Review:

- Paul's coming typical of Christ's coming
 - Accountability
 - Responsibility
- God's kingdom is in power

II. Preview:

- The power of the kingdom of God
 - Contrast the power of the world's kingdom (word, riches, etc)

III. Sermon:

[19] - **"But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power."**

- **"But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will"**
 - This becomes a big matter
 - 2 Cor. 1:13-24
- **"and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power."**
 - **"the speech of them"** - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - "enticing words of man's wisdom"
 - "excellency of speech"
 - **"the power"**
 - "the demonstration of the Spirit and of power:" (1 Cor. 2:4-5; Rom. 15:13)
 - Force, might, powerful deeds, marvelous works
 - The Preaching of the Cross - 1 Cor. 1:18
 - Christ - 1 Cor. 1:24, 5:4
 - Resurrection - 1 Cor. 6:14, 15:43; Php. 3:10
 - Of God - 2 Cor. 4:7
 - Truth - 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 3:20
 - Word - Heb. 1:3
- 2 Peter 1:3
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:7-8, 3:5

[20] - **"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."**

- Comparing the spiritual things with spiritual

- This world has excellency of speech, but the kingdom of God is in power
- Great power is manifested in the resolve of the inner man in positions of weakness
- Knowledge puffeth up, charity edifieth
- Similar to Romans 14:17 - "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
 - **"not in word"** - not just talk, not societal, cultural apologetics, and rhetoric
 - **"but in power"** - powerful deeds, deeds showing, marvelous works
 - 1 Cor. 15:24
 - Power manifested with the 1 Thessalonians 2:1ff

[21] - **"What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"**

- **"rod"** - 2 Cor. 13:10 - sharpness (sword, sickle)
 - Prov. 10:13, 13:24, 22:15, 23:14, 29:15
 - 2 Cor. 11:25
- **"in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"** -
 - "spirit" - wind; breathe; separates living from dead; life principle;
 - "meekness" - (patience) softness of temper; mildness; forbearance under injuries and provocations
 - 2 Cor. 10:1; Gal. 5:23, 6:1; Eph. 4:12; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:25; Tit. 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:4

IV. Conclusion: