

**1 Corinthians 2:2:** “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except *Jesus Christ* and *him crucified*.”

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ (**Who is Jesus**).

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ (**What he did**).

**Acts 18:4-8:** “*Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.*”<sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, *Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.*<sup>6</sup> But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. *From now on I will go to the Gentiles.*”<sup>7</sup> Then *Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.*<sup>8</sup> *Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.*”

**Application Point #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.3).

**1 Corinthians 2:3:** “I came to you in *weakness* and *fear*, and with *much trembling*.”

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ (**Gal.4:12-16; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**).

➤ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 18:6,9-11:** “But when *the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive*, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles”...<sup>9</sup> One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “*Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.*”<sup>10</sup> *For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.*”<sup>11</sup> So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. <sup>12</sup> While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, *the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court.*<sup>13</sup> “This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.”

**Application Point #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4).

**1 Corinthians 2:4:** “My message and my preaching were not with *wise and persuasive words*, but *with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power*...”

“However, we must note that Paul is not telling ministers deliberately to preach poorly, or to avoid using the gifts God gave them. Men like Charles Spurgeon and George Whitefield were gifted orators whose words carried power, *but they did not depend on their natural talents. They trusted the Spirit of God to work in the hearts of their hearers, and He did. Those who minister the Word must prepare and use every gift God has given them—but they must not put their confidence in themselves (see 2 Cor. 3:5).*” **Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989), 1 Co 1:26.***

**1 Thessalonians 1:4-5:** “For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,<sup>5</sup> *because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.*”

**Application Point #4:** \_\_\_\_\_.

### 5. His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5).

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5:** “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,<sup>5</sup> *so that* your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”

**Application Point #5:** \_\_\_\_\_.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

In proclaiming the scandal of the cross we honor Christ by having Paul’s approach, message, faithfulness, dependence and aim.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** How to Study the Bible – November 13-14<sup>th</sup> (Friday evening-Saturday) @ SMC. Registration deadline is Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at SMC.

**PRAYER:** Take some time to share your needs with each other and then pray.

### QUESTIONS:

- 1). What new insights did you learn from the message on Sunday?
- 2). What was Paul's religious, educational, and experiential background? (See Philippians 3:1-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Acts 21:37-22:21). In light of this, how do you understand Paul's comments in 1 Cor. 2:1-5? Was he unable to communicate effectively (See Acts 14:12), engage philosophically (Acts 17:16-33), and debate or persuade people (Acts 17:1-4; 18:1-5; 19:8)?
- 3). What was the focus on Paul's message when he came to Corinth (1 Cor.2:2; Acts 18:4-8)?
- 4). What was Paul experiencing in his life when he went to Corinth (1 Cor.2:3)? What was his 'weakness' that he referred to (See 2 Cor.12:9-10; Gal.4:12-16 for possible clues)? What was he fearful of (See Acts 18)?
- 5). What did Paul do, *regardless of how he felt*? What gave him the encouragement to keep on keeping on (Acts 18:9-11)? How can you apply this to your own life in times of trial, suffering and hardship?
- 6). Paul spoke of his dependence on the Holy Spirit and not on 'wise and persuasive words' to bring people to Jesus (1 Cor.2:4), yet we read of his attempt to *persuade* the Jews (Acts 18:4). What is the relationship between 'persuading' (Acts 18:4; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15) the lost to come to Jesus and the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing people to Jesus (John 16:7-8; Titus 3:5-6; John 3; 1 Thess.1:4)?
- 7). How does Paul's way of reaching spiritually lost people encourage and help you to be more effective in witnessing?

### PRAYER:

## SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

### Today's Message:

### "Proclaiming the Scandal of the Cross"

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Pastor Cory Anderson / 11.08.09 / SMC

### INTRODUCTION:

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5:** "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

### 1. His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1).

**1 Corinthians 2:1:** "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God."

"The itinerant philosophers and teachers depended on their wisdom and eloquence to gain followers. The city of Corinth was filled with such "spellbinders." Paul did not depend on eloquent speech or clever arguments; he simply declared God's Word in the power of the Spirit. He was an ambassador, not a "Christian salesman." Had he used spectacular speech and philosophy, Paul would have exalted himself and hidden the very Christ he came to proclaim! God had sent him to preach the Gospel "not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect" (1 Cor. 1:17)." Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989), 1 Co 1:26.

**Application Point #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2).