1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 8 Trusting the Power of God as We Minister (1 Cor. 2:1-10)

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Three things every Christian would do well to remember:

- 1. Romans 3:4, "let God be true, but every man a liar..." God is right, everybody else is wrong.
- 2. First Corinthians 2:1-5. God can accomplish great things through anyone who is fully dependent upon the power of His Holy Spirit instead of their own abilities, strengths, or talents.
- 3. "Watch out for the Christians." Don't assume that because a person is saved, they'll never hurt you or do you wrong. Oftentimes it is the brethren who cause you the most grief.

INTRODUCTION

In these verses, Paul revealed to the Corinthian believers that his success in ministering the Gospel had nothing to do with any special attributes that he possessed. He pointed out that he was affected by the same fears as any other man and that he ministered "in much trembling" (vs. 3).

The prophet Elijah was another man like Paul. He did many mighty things for the glory of God, but we're told that he was "a man subject to like passions as we are" (James 5:17).

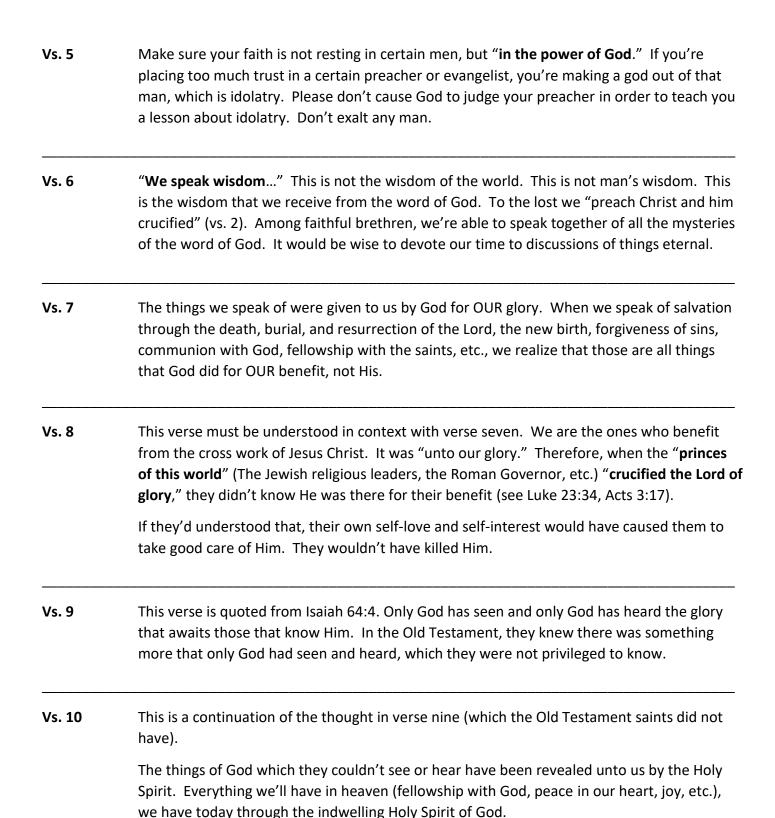
There are no flawless preachers. God uses ordinary imperfect men to preach and minister so that you'll understand that God can use ordinary people like you to accomplish whatever He leads you to do.

God doesn't use many wise, mighty, or noble men. God gets much more glory when He accomplishes great things using the foolish, weak, base, and despised men and women of this world (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

VERSE BY VERSE:

- **Vs. 1** "Declaring unto you the testimony of God." Two meanings: 1) We are to declare the testimony that God gave. 2) We are to declare the testimony about God.
 - The emphasis should be on God and what God said, not on the preacher.
 - Our flesh wants to glory in things of the flesh: certain men, certain personalities, etc.
 - God wants us to focus on spiritual things: The person of God and the testimony of God.

- **Vs. 2** "Jesus Christ and him crucified." That's the preaching of the cross (chapter 1:18), which we are to focus all our efforts on.
- **Vss. 3-4** (Discussed in the introduction)



God has revealed to us those things that the Old Testament saints could only wonder about.