

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)

Vs. 5 Make sure your faith is not resting in certain men, but **“in the power of God.”** If you’re placing too much trust in a certain preacher or evangelist, you’re making a god out of that man, which is idolatry. Please don’t cause God to judge your preacher in order to teach you a lesson about idolatry. Don’t exalt any man.

Vs. 6 **“We speak wisdom...”** This is not the wisdom of the world. This is not man’s wisdom. This is the wisdom that we receive from the word of God. To the lost we “preach Christ and him crucified” (vs. 2). Among faithful brethren, we’re able to speak together of all the mysteries of the word of God. It would be wise to devote our time to discussions of things eternal.

Vs. 7 The things we speak of were given to us by God for OUR glory. When we speak of salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, the new birth, forgiveness of sins, communion with God, fellowship with the saints, etc., we realize that those are all things that God did for OUR benefit, not His.

Vs. 8 This verse must be understood in context with verse seven. We are the ones who benefit from the cross work of Jesus Christ. It was “unto our glory.” Therefore, when the **“princes of this world”** (The Jewish religious leaders, the Roman Governor, etc.) **“crucified the Lord of glory,”** they didn’t know He was there for their benefit (see Luke 23:34, Acts 3:17).

If they’d understood that, their own self-love and self-interest would have caused them to take good care of Him. They wouldn’t have killed Him.

Vs. 9 This verse is quoted from Isaiah 64:4. Only God has seen and only God has heard the glory that awaits those that know Him. In the Old Testament, they knew there was something more that only God had seen and heard, which they were not privileged to know.

Vs. 10 This is a continuation of the thought in verse nine (which the Old Testament saints did not have).

The things of God which they couldn’t see or hear have been revealed unto us by the Holy Spirit. Everything we’ll have in heaven (fellowship with God, peace in our heart, joy, etc.), we have today through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

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