

1 Corinthians 05 – 2:1-8

Paul's Ministry Methods

1. 2:1-2 – Paul's Ministry Not With Wisdom

- a. "and I": Contrasting his visit with those who may come with wise words - 1:17
- b. He declares God's testimony, it is not invented by man – Gal 1:1
- c. Testimony = Christ, and him crucified – 1:24, (not Exo 31:18, Acts 3:14, Rev 19:10)
- d. Not just witnessing the cross: Luke 24:48, it was the glory of the cross: Gal 6:14
- e. "Not to know any thing" about pleasing them: all of scripture is profitable.
- f. Paul did not embellish his ministry as pleasing to men – Gal 1:10, 1 Thess 2:1-5

2. 2:2-5 – The Reason for Paul's "Weak" Methods

- a. "weakness, fear, and trembling" : his body and his presentation - Acts 18:9-12
- b. He was rude in speech, but not knowledge – 2 Cor 11:5-7
- c. He nor his message were prized in Corinthian culture – 1 Cor 4:10-13
- d. Paul's presentation was a shame to the boastful Corinthians – 2 Cor 11:7,21-30
- e. 2:4 - He did not try to entice them, lure them, or impress them
- f. "demonstration of the Spirit and of power" – Rom 15:19, 1 Thess 1:5-9
- g. The best demonstration is by the word of God in you – 1 Thess 2:13, Acts 26:19-29
- h. The power of God works in us who believe – Rom 1:16, 1 Cor 4:20, 2 Cor 4:5, 10:4

3. 2:6-7 – The Wisdom We Speak

- a. 2:6 – "We do speak wisdom, to them that are perfect" – Phil 3:12,15, Col 3:14
- b. The princes of this world come to nought: they are vain. Psa 2:1, 33:10, Phil 3:4-8
- c. Separate from so-called revealed wisdom of tradition – Mark 7:9, Gal 1:14
- d. Before the world – is different than since the beginning – Mat 25:34, Acts 3:21
- e. Brought to nought by the rulers and elders – Acts 4:11
- f. The wisdom of God in the mystery brings the hope of glory to us – Col 1:25-27

4. 2:8 - Kept Secret for a Reason

- a. It was not only God's wisdom hidden, it was God's wisdom to hide it
- b. They were ignorant of the Lord of glory – Luke 23:34, Acts 3:17
- c. Satan was ignorant as well as the rulers – Eph 2:2, 3:9
- d. Without it being hidden, God's purpose would not have been fulfilled.