

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 2:1-8)

1. Did Paul fashion himself as some great public speaker?

No: *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God” (I Corinthians 2:1).*

- Paul came to Corinth in **Acts 18:1-11**.
- God took care of the speaking of inspired men (**Jeremiah 1:6-9** and **I Corinthians 2:13**).
- Paul was not an “excellent speaker” (**II Corinthians 10:10** and **II Corinthians 11:6**).
- Paul did not come speaking his own wisdom either (**Proverbs 3:5-7**, **Proverbs 23:4**, **Isaiah 5:21**, and **Romans 12:16**).

2. What was Paul determined to know among those in Corinth?

Jesus Christ and Him crucified: *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (I Corinthians 2:2).*

- Unlike the “preachers” of today, Paul wasn’t seeking to be a glorified preacher. Paul’s goal, when he began preaching in the city of Corinth, had been to just preach Christ (**Acts 5:42**, **Acts 8:5**, **I Corinthians 15:1-11**, **II Corinthians 4:1-5**, and **Galatians 6:14**).

3. Was Paul physically strong during the time he was in Corinth?

No: *“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling” (I Corinthians 2:3).*

- The brethren in Corinth saw Paul’s sufferings first hand. This should aid them in seeing his sincerity and care for their souls above his own life (**I Corinthians 4:10-13**, **II Corinthians 4:7-12**, and **Galatians 4:13-14**).
- A false teacher is after his/her own interests (**II Peter 2:1-3**). A false teacher will not suffer persecution for the truth (**Galatians 6:12**).
- By examining the fruit of the Apostle Paul (**Matthew 7:20**), it is abundantly clear that he is upright (**I Peter 4:1-2**).

4. Was Paul the kind of preacher that wooed the people with big words and clever talking?

No: *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (I Corinthians 2:4).*

- Paul’s preaching was just about revealing the will of the Lord (**Acts 20:26-27**).
- False teachers use enticing words (**Romans 16:17-18**) for trickery (**Colossians 2:4** and **II Peter 2:18**).
- Paul demonstrated the Spirit (**I Thessalonians 1:5**) and power (**Romans 1:16**).
- There is distinctiveness in preachers of truth vs. error (**Matthew 7:24-29**; cf. **Titus 2:15**).

5. Is the goal of teaching to have people believe in the wisdom of men?

No: *"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God"* (**I Corinthians 2:5**).

- Faith cannot be in men, Apostles or not (**Psalms 146:3** and **I John 4:1**).
- Faith must be in the Gospel (**Philippians 1:27**).
- Consider this: *"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe"* (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).

6. Who was the source of the wisdom that was used by Paul in preaching and teaching?

God: *"(6) Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: (7) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory"* (**I Corinthians 2:6-7**).

- Them that are perfect are those of us who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ (**Revelation 1:5**) and follow the example of God (**Matthew 5:48**).
- Being perfect requires effort on your part (**II Corinthians 7:1**).
- The hidden wisdom, the mystery, had been hidden in times past (**Colossians 1:26-27**).
- It is now unveiled (**Ephesians 3:1-11**).

7. Had the rulers who put Jesus to death known the wisdom of God, what would they NOT have done?

They would NOT have killed Jesus: *"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"* (**I Corinthians 2:8**).

- Those who killed Jesus were ignorant of what they were really doing (**Luke 23:34**, **Acts 3:14-19**, and **Acts 13:27-28**).