

PAUL AMONG THE CORINTHIANS
I COR. 2:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Paul was a saved man.
 - 1. Damascus road.
 - 2. Acts 9:1-6.

- B. Paul was a baptized man.
 - 1. Ananias.
 - 2. Acts 9:10-18.

- C. Paul was a commissioned man.
 - 1. Acts 9:15.

- D. Paul was an obedient man.
 - 1. Acts 9:22.

I. PAUL'S METHOD OF PREACHING. V1

- A. "not with excellency of speech."
 - 1. excellency = superiority.
 - 2. speech = not words, but content.

- B. "or wisdom."
 - 1. skilled, skillful.
 - 2. "one who has natural abilities."

II. PAUL'S PRIOR DETERMINATION. V2

- A. Determined = divided or separate, hence to come to a decision before the event.
 - 1. His decision, "Jesus Christ and him crucified."
 - 2. Not just Jesus, but Jesus Crucified!

- B. Paul knew the city and its population.
 - 1. A temptation to appeal to intellect.
 - 2. To have Philosophical discussions.

III. PAUL'S PERSONAL PROBLEMS. V3

- A. "in weakness."
 - 1. Infirmity, weakness, feebleness.
 - 2. Not a sports figure.

- B. "in fear" = phobos = terror.
 - 1. What would Paul fear? Not men!
 - 2. He feared perverting the testimony of God.

- C. "in much trembling."
 - 1. a quaking, shivering with fear.
 - 2. Not the type we extol today.
 - 3. Not confident, etc.

IV. PAUL'S SOURCE OF POWER. V4

- A. "and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom."
 - 1. speech and preaching = the content and manner of proclamation. Paul seems to have cut-back, toned down his manner of preaching on purpose.
 - 2. "not with enticing words of mans wisdom."
 - 3. entice = persuade - peitho - to persuade, win by influence, to speak with winning words.
 - 4. Same word in II Cor. 5:11.
 - a. This was spoken of saved but erring folk.
"Therefore, knowing the terror of the lord, we persuade men."

- B. "but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."
 - 1. demonstration = a pointing out by argument.
 - 2. power = dunamis - power in action.
 - 3. "but God's power was in my message, proving to those who heard them that it was God's message."

V. WHY PAUL PREACHED AS HE DID. V5

- A. Not because he couldn't!
 - 1. Paul was well educated.
 - 2. He knew all the Philosophies.

- B. Not because it wasn't effective!
 - 1. Spiritual hucksterism has always had success.
 - 2. Clowns, give aways.

- C. Not because he was afraid of men.
 - 1. He was an Apostle.
 - 2. Not afraid of Peter, Apollos.

- E. He wanted their faith to be in that which was sure.
 - 1. faith = pistis - firm persuasion, the conviction which is based upon hearing, not upon sight, or knowledge."
 - 2. "should not stand," "may not be."
 - 3. "in the cleverness of man."
 - 4. "but in the power of God."

Paul purposefully avoided Philosophic wisdom and persuasion of speech in order to avoid the possibility of their conversion experience being grounded in human power and not God's power.

