

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Easter Sermon That We Need To Hear (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)**

Date: **March 27, 2016**

What makes a good sermon? Is it the knowledge and wisdom of the preacher? Is it his oratory skills and abilities? Is it the use of funny and clever illustrations? When it came to the art of public speaking, the Greeks in Corinth emphasized intellectual persuasion and various oratory techniques. Paul's preaching was different. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul explains his approach to preaching. He did not seek to impress people with lofty speech or persuasive words. Paul's message was simple. He resolved to preach Christ and him crucified. He understood that the power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed when Christ is preached. The Holy Spirit uses the preaching of the gospel to transform hearts and increase faith. In this week's study, we will study Paul's method of preaching. We will also learn what happens as a result of Christ-centered preaching.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Why did Paul avoid lofty speech and wisdom when he preached to the Corinthians?
 - b. Instead of being flashy, Paul focused on Christ and him crucified. Why?
 - c. Why is it important that, no matter what the Biblical text, we hear Christ preached every single Sunday?
 - d. How might Paul's principles for preaching influence the way we share the gospel with others?
 - e. What does it mean to share the gospel *in weakness and in fear and much trembling* (verse 3)?
 - f. Why should we be thankful for our weaknesses? How does this help us rely more on the Spirit?

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- g. What does Paul mean when he said that his preaching was a *demonstration of the Spirit and of power*? What is the Spirit's role in preaching and evangelism?

 - h. When Christ is preached, what are the results?

 - i. After studying 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, what is the one main thing you can take away from this passage?
2. Read and reflect on the following passages. Write down what they teach us about preaching and evangelism. How do they instruct us? How do they encourage us?
- Exodus 4:10-12
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-4
 - Galatians 1:6-10
 - Mark 16:15

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. Why does every good sermon need Christ and him crucified? What happens if Christ is not preached?

3. What does it mean to bring the gospel to people in *weakness and in fear and much trembling* (verse 3)? Why is this important?

4. Why should we be thankful for our weaknesses? How can we practically do this?

5. How does this passage speak to you and your personal approach to evangelism in your home, workplace, and community?