

Sermon-Based Small Group Study Guide

Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**“We Have One Message To Share”**

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 – Bro. Forrest Smith

Message from Graduation Recognition, Sunday, May 19th

**Verse of the Week:** Memorize and Meditate on 1 Corinthians 2:2

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 Corinthians 2:2 ESV.

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Knowing Christ may seem foolish to the world, but the more we truly know Him, the more we want others to know Him and to have their faith rest on the power of God.**

**Monday – Introduction – Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

During Paul’s time in Ephesus, he received a troubling report about the state of the church in Corinth, one he had planted and spent time investing in. That prompted him to write this letter to them. One of the main issues facing the church was a lack of unity. Many teachers, some of whom presented different messages, visited the church. As a result, various factions that favored one Christian leader over another, threaten the unity of the church, and undermined it’s effectiveness. Paul solution was to focus the churches attention solely on Christ and His message, which includes the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the wisdom He brings. (Robby Gallaty)

The other main issue of the Corinthian church was an unwillingness to divorce the culture around them. Most of the believers could not consistently separate themselves from their old, selfish, immoral and pagan ways. People without Christ, do not have the Holy Spirit to aid them in comprehending God’s revealed truth. It seems foolish to them. That is the reason they do not receive what comes from God’s spirit. However, those who have the Spirit of the Lord have the mind of Christ. Therefore, they can receive, understand and more importantly believe that which comes from the Lord.

When we think about how corrupt our society seems to be in today’s age, we must remember that there is “nothing new under the sun.” The culture in Corinth was one of

the most corrupt and immoral in history and it kept them from knowing Christ through the message Paul taught them.

*Identify various factors that prevent our culture today from knowing Christ.*

## **Tuesday – Knowing Christ Seems Foolish To The World**

**(Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)** *How do you define “foolish”?*

The Oxford Dictionary defines it as “lacking good sense or judgment; unwise, crazy, silly, stupid, or irrational.” Six times in this passage, God’s Word describes the wisdom of God as foolishness to the world. However in God’s economy, the first are last and the wise things of this world are foolish compared to God’s ways. Billy Graham says this on the topic of how God describes the foolish man in scripture “He identifies the fool as one who refuses to acknowledge God’s ample evidence of who He is, His love for us, His desire that we might come to know Him through Jesus Christ, and His provision for us throughout our lives. When people refuse to believe God’s Word, they will eventually find out how foolish they really are.”

According to 1 Corinthians 1:22 “Jews asked for signs and Greeks searched for wisdom”. *What are some ways our world asks and seeks the same things today in spite of having both available from God already in His Word? What sources do the world go to in searching for answers?*

## **Wednesday – Knowing Christ Compels Us To Go & Tell In His Power**

**(Read Luke 24:46-49 then 1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-4)** Matthew, Mark and Luke all contain these words that we call the Great Commission. If anyone calls themselves a believer, a Christian, or a follower of Christ, these are their marching orders. The deeper we walk in a relationship with Christ, the more we desire to obey Him, glorifying His name by telling all those around us about how God has brought us from death to life spiritually. As Bro. Tim has preached recently, salvation is the work of God from beginning to end. Like any great encounter we experience in life, we can’t keep our redemption in Christ to ourselves.

We must share it with others. In His wisdom, God doesn't leave it to us to devise crafty ways to share it under our own power and schemes. He gives us the Holy Spirit to lead us to people with a message that He proclaims through us. We just have to choose whether or not we will make ourselves available just as Paul did.

*After reading this passage in Luke and 1 Corinthians, how are you emboldened to obey Jesus' command?*

### **Thursday – Knowing Christ Generates Godly Faith**

**(Read 1 Corinthians 2:5)** Paul could have achieved results with “the wisdom of men,” but human wisdom works with human power. Even the message of the cross, preached in human power, leaves converts forever vulnerable to a more clever argument, a more impressive presentation, a more charismatic personality. Today's unanswerable argument by human wisdom is tomorrow's unnoticed academic footnote. Paul preached as a vessel fit for noble use because the Holy Spirit is moving through the world in power today for this one purpose: to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Friend of sinners. (Raymond C. Portland Jr, [/thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org)).

*Think about how you came to faith in Christ. Who was it that shared the gospel with you? As you look back at that, can you identify where your faith was placed? Did it rest in the power of men, leaving it open to be swayed by a more convincing argument or by being let down by that person through a moral failure? Or did your faith rest on the supernatural power of the God whose ways are higher than man's ways and whose thoughts are greater than mans (Isaiah 55:9)?*

### **Friday – Identifying what hinders us from knowing Christ**

Ultimately, we must realize that it is pride that hinders us from knowing Christ. God hates pride. *What does Proverbs 16:5 and James 4:6 say about pride?*

Pride is the root of all sin against God. It causes us to think we know more than others and that we can do things in our own power, just like the Corinthians did. *Spend time today asking God to show you areas of your life where pride may be hindering you from knowing Christ and sharing a message of Christ crucified. Repent of these and commit to having the mind of Christ concerning anything that keeps you from obeying God's commands.*

**Saturday – Review your notes and prepare for your Small Group**

**The purpose of sermon-based small group study** is to encourage and equip us to apply what we learn during weekly sermons into our daily lives through discussion. Scripture teaches that we are accountable for our obedience to Biblical teaching, just as our leaders are accountable to teach. Hearing the Word of God taught through the sermon and then applying it makes us mature disciples and examples (witnesses) to others (James 1:22-25).