

Sermon Reflections

Sermon Title: *Spirit-Empowered Gospel, Part 1* (1 Corinthians 2: 1-16)

Summary: Jesus Christ builds and unites His church around the cross so always persist in holding forth the message of the cross.

1. Keep your focus upon the cross (vv. 1-5)

- Unlike the Greek orators of his time, Paul purposefully avoided their approach to public speaking and instead focused on the cross. What did he wish to present to those listening to him? What are some implications of that for us today if we make much of the cross of Christ?
- Paul testifies to being weak, fearful, and trembling when speaking with the Corinthians. How do you feel when sharing the Gospel with others?
- Our words have no life changing power. How can we persuade others to faith without using “plausible words of wisdom” (Acts 19:8; 2 Cor. 5:11)? What do we need to say in order to see men’s faith rest “in the power of God”? How can the power of the Spirit be displayed in our Gospel proclamation?
- What doctrines, passions, hobbies, or personal preferences are you given to proclaim to others instead of the Gospel? Why do you find it easier to talk about those subjects?

2. Expect the world to reject the cross (vv. 6-9)

- If the world thinks the message and offense of the cross is moronic, what should we expect their reaction to us will be when you share your faith? How can we still be bold in relaying this profoundly exclusive message?
- In what two ways is the message of the cross “hidden” in plain sight? (Romans 16:25-26; Isaiah 53:1)
- The illustration presented was about the “2 faces” in a picture actually revealing something unseen at first was a good way to see the Gospel of the cross. How does the hidden message of the cross become visible? (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6)
- What is your goal when speaking the Gospel to others? (2 Corinthians 4:5)
- Charles Spurgeon’s analogy of the lion in a cage helps us consider the power of the Word to defend itself. We soon find out that the power is not in us or in our wisdom but in God’s pre-ordained spotlight on the perfect, spotless lamb. This Word is our life! The power of the cross is the power of God. That’s a great reminder for us when we recognize our own weakness. Share the message anyway. God’s Spirit and His power are enough.
- Lastly, what other resource is available that we must employ and never forget? _____?