

**Lesson #10**

<sup>3</sup> *I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.*

<sup>4</sup> *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*

<sup>5</sup> *that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

*1 Corinthians 2:3-5*

**DIFFERENT VIEWS OF PAUL**

**1. His detractors**

- a) They questioned his apostolic status
- b) They did not think highly of him

**2. His defenders**

- a) They were loyal to him
- b) They loved him

**PAUL'S VIEW OF HIMSELF IN HIS MINISTRY IN CORINTH**

*"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling" 1 Cor 2:3*

1. A self-deprecatory approach was chosen
2. Paul rejected a false put-on image
3. What this text does not mean:
  - a) That Paul was a weakling
  - b) That he was cowardly
  - c) That he was unsuited for ministry

4. What this text could suggest with reference to his physical state of health

- a) He had been persecuted at Thessalonica
- b) He had been rejected at Athens (by some)
- c) He had been physically worn out
- d) The words he employed could describe a person who had a traumatic experience recently

5. Personal Application

- a) Paul was going to minister as he was
- b) If he was perceived as weak and fearful, he would still serve as he was able
- c) He would not try and put up a front of false bravado and style to impress people
- d) He would minister as he had always ministered, conscious of his own weakness but drawing strength from the grace of the Lord

## **THE PREACHING APPROACH OF PAUL**

*And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power 1 Cor 2:4*

### **1. Speech**

- a) His choice was not human eloquence
- b) He refused to be like the orators/ philosophers who he met at Athens

### **2. Preaching**

- a) He did not use persuasive words of human wisdom
- b) This was commonly done by orators of the day
  - i) They contrived ways and means to speak to move hearers

- ii) They used whatever means to persuade people

### **3. Paul's dependence**

- a) In demonstration of the Spirit
  - i) The Holy Spirit was deeply involved
  - ii) He would lead Paul and teach him what to say
  - iii) The Holy Spirit's involvement would be clearly demonstrated
- b) And of power
  - i) The Lord Jesus promised the power of the Spirit Acts 1:8
  - ii) This was the power that the Apostles were given
  - iii) This was the power Paul sought and found

### **PAUL'S MAIN CONCERN**

*That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

*1 Corinthians 2:5*

#### **1. To avert danger:**

- a) That the Corinthians may end up with a false faith
- b) That they may end up with a faith that come from "the wisdom of men"

#### **2. To lead to true faith**

- a) To possess a genuine faith
- b) A genuine faith is one that will experience the power of God
  - i) To cleanse the heart from sin
  - ii) To change a sinful life into a godly one
  - iii) To be challenged to build up a strong life of faith