

# 1 Corinthians 2

-preparation for *1 Corinthians 3* and the place of preachers in God's plan

## 1 Corinthians 2.1-5

-**Read Acts 18.9-10** – He had to be told by the Holy Spirit not to be afraid to preach the gospel at Corinth

**V1 – Do we picture Paul as a strong preacher? What kind of preacher was he?**

See *2 Cor. 10.10* and *Gal. 4.14* – not a powerful appearance (he did not disagree with that assessment)

**V2 – Explain "social gospel":** Many churches today try to attract new members by having a lot of entertainment and other activities that bring people in, without their realizing what they are getting involved with

-**Are there religious groups today which do not even believe in the resurrection of Christ?** Yes – many liberal Protestant denominations do not believe in the resurrection, and various cults deny the divinity of Christ (Unitarian-Universalist, some Methodists, etc.)

-**What about the content of Paul's sermons?** Not of human wisdom

**V3 – Reference?** To the turmoil of establishing the church

**V4 – If he wasn't a great preacher, how did he establish the church at Corinth?** By spiritual gifts

**V5 – What is the "power of God" today?** The gospel (not spiritual gifts – See *Romans 1.16-17, 1 Cor. 13.10*)

## 1 Corinthians 2.6-10

**V6 – Are our government leaders very religious people?** No, we have seen all kinds of sexual immorality, as well as corruption and other sins, in the lives of our elected leaders

-**Have we had any U. S. presidents who were members of the Lord's church?**

1. Abraham Lincoln was baptized by a "Disciples" preacher, but never attended the Lord's church

2. James A. Garfield was a member of the Lord's church, but became very liberal in his later years (heavy drinker, went with instrumental music when the split came, etc.)

-You can visit Garfield's home just east of Cleveland, Ohio, and find out more about his lifestyle and see what his liberalism did to his children's spiritual lives

-He was shot July 2, 1881 and died Sept. 19, 1881

**V7 – What is the "hidden wisdom"?** The gospel of the New Testament

**V8 – Did the Jews know what they were doing when they crucified Christ?** No – *Luke 23.34* – "Father, forgive them...."

-**When did they understand what they had done?** *Acts 2.37*

**-Where there any Jewish leaders who did understand? Yes**

1. Joseph of Arimathea

-A rich man, member of the Sanhedrin (*Matt. 27.57, Mark 15.43*)

-Righteous, looking for the kingdom of God (*Mark 15.43, Luke 23.50*)

-A secret disciple (*John 19.38*)

-Used his own tomb for the burial of Christ (*Matt. 27.57-60*)

2. Nicodemus – a leading Pharisee in the Sanhedrin

-He came to Jesus by night (*John 3.1-14*) to discuss baptism

-He protested the lack of a fair trial for Jesus (*John 7.50-51*)

-Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus helped bury Jesus (*John 19.38-42*)

**V 9** – "The best is yet to come"

**V 10** – The Spirit of God was revealing truth in Paul's day

**-Is the Spirit revealing things to people today?** Yes – by means of the completed Bible, but not by spiritual gifts (*1 Cor. 13.10, Gal. 1.6-10, Jude 3*)

## **1 Corinthians 2.11-16**

**V 11-12** – The Spirit reveals the truth of God

**V 13-14** – Spiritual thoughts with spiritual words (the definition of inspiration) = the Bible

**V 15** – The man is God is able to discern evil from good

Natural man:

-not spiritual

-sexual gratification

-material possessions

-lust for power

-looking after #1

Spiritual man:

-v 15 – sees the real meaning of life

-discerns good and evil (*1 John 4.1*)

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