

1 Corinthians Series - #6

TALKING SENSE

1 Corinthians 2: 1-8

1 Corinthians 2:1-8 ¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Introduction

Paul's arrival in Corinth heralded the start of a new life for many people. Because of his ministry, many turned to the Lord and the church was founded. Nevertheless, things were not going as well as they might have, and so at this point in his letter Paul reminds the Corinthians **how** they got started, and **how** they need to go on. He talks a lot of sense to them.

Once again our text today breaks out into three parts.

Talking sense – **what to say**;

Talking sense – **how to say it**;

Talking sense – **what to expect**.

Talking sense – what to say.

Remember that the story is not about us, but about God – and it is the testimony to God that ultimately counts. We are inclined to think that our 'witness' is 'our testimony' but rather it is our witness about God and His testimony.

The testimony of God: [v. 1] ¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

If we think of the Ark of testimony we learn about what we need to say – because there are 4 truths about the ark of testimony which God gave instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai:

Exodus 16:33-34 ³³ And Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations.” ³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. **Hebrews 9:4** ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

- The ark – the PRESENCE of God: **Exodus 25:21-22** ²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. ²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.
- The tablets – the PREEMINENCE of God: **Exodus 25:16** ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.
- The pot – the PROVISION of God: **Exodus 25:33-34** ³³ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ³⁴ And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers,
- The rod – the POWER of God: **Hebrews 9:4** ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

The power of God: **1 Corinthians 2:5** ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- **The power to resurrect**: **1 Corinthians 6:14** ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

- **The power to reign:** 1 Corinthians 15:24²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
- **The power to reveal:** 2 Corinthians 4:7⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- **The power to restore:** 2 Corinthians 12:9⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The wisdom of God: 1 Corinthians 2:7⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

- **Conceived before the world:**
- **Concealed until Christ:**
- **Consummated in glory:**
- **Contradicted by this age:** 1 Corinthians 2:6⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

Talking Sense: How to say it

By means of declaration: 1 Corinthians 2:1¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

- Reasons
- Persuaded
- Testified

Acts 18:4-5 ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:1 ¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

By means of determination: 1 Corinthians 2:2 ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

- Not to compromise the message [v. 2]
- Not to capitulate to fear: [v. 3] 1 Corinthians 2:3 ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

By means of demonstration: 1 Corinthians 2:4 ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

- A messenger anointed by the Spirit
- A message authenticated by the Spirit

Talking Sense: What to Expect [v. 5]

1 Corinthians 2:5 ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- People's faith will reject human wisdom
- People's faith will rest in divine power

Conclusion:

There are applications here for witnessing and faith-building:

Before the world, we do not succumb to the world's reasoning – we proclaim the testimony of God.

For ourselves, we must be continually reminded to keep our focus on the wisdom of God and resting in the power of God.