

## **I Corinthians 2:1-5**

### **What Was Paul's Preaching Like?**

#### **Introduction:**

In the forty years of ministry by Alexander Maclaren in Manchester, England, he began his preaching ministry with the apostle Paul's theme: "I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (I Cor. 2:2) When the forty years of his ministry came up he took up the same theme as when he began his ministry, "Christ and Him Crucified." Pastor Maclaren put it this way, "Christianity is Christ, and Christ is Christianity." Christianity is altogether different from any other religion of the world; for in these you can accept the teaching, and ignore the teacher. But you cannot do that with Christianity; "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." All of what Christianity is lies in the personality and the death of Jesus Christ; and His atoning death in behalf of His people leading to His glorious resurrection, conquering death, sin and hell.

#### **I. Without Eloquence – v.1-3**

##### **A. Plain and unvarnished**

1. Understandable to the simplest minds
2. No hype – II Cor. 4:2 (John MacArthur)
3. Without flinching – II Tim. 4:2-3
4. Without drawing attention to himself

##### **B. Paul's Custom**

1. Excluding any distraction – v.2
2. Paul's resolve – Gal.3:1
3. Crucified, Buried and Raised – I Cor. 15:12-17

##### **C. Weakness and Fear – v.3**

1. Humility in appearance and emotion – II Cor. 10:10
2. Reassured by Jesus Himself – Acts 18:7-11; II Cor.7:15
3. The fear of men – Pro. 29:25
4. Paul's thorn in the flesh – **Turn To: II Cor. 12:1-10**

#### **II. With Divine Power – v.4-5**

##### **A. His message and preaching (Word and proclamation) 1:18**

##### **B. Not with Persuasive speech of human wisdom – (TV Preachers)**

1. Not human psychology
2. Not human philosophy

##### **C. Proofs of the Holy Spirit – I Thess. 1:5; Rom. 15:13**

##### **D. Paul's Purpose in preaching – "that" they would be grounded in the Spirit's power and repel the attractions of human wisdom. (Simon Kistemaker)**

#### **Conclusion:**

1. *If you are unconverted and a stranger to the Lord Jesus Christ then you must first deal with your sin. You yourself cannot atone for your transgressions of God's law. Isaiah 64:6*
2. *There is only one alternative and that is to come to the Savior, Jesus Christ who suffered and died for believing sinners. Rom. 2:5-8*

