

## Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:29 – 2:13

New American Standard Version

1   <sup>29</sup> so that no man may boast before God.<sup>30</sup> But by His doing  
2   you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from  
3   God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,  
4   <sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST  
5   IN THE LORD.” <sup>2:1</sup> And when I came to you, brethren, I did  
6   not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom,  
7   proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined  
8   to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him  
9   crucified.<sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in  
10   much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were  
11   not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of  
12   the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on  
13   the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup> Yet we do  
14   speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom,  
15   however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who  
16   are passing away; <sup>7</sup> but we speak God’s wisdom in a  
17   mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before  
18   the ages to our glory; <sup>8</sup> *the wisdom* which none of the rulers  
19   of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they  
20   would not have crucified the Lord of glory; <sup>9</sup> but just as it is  
21   written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS  
22   NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF  
23   MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE  
24   HIM.” <sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for  
25   the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For  
26   who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the  
27   spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of  
28   God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have  
29   received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is  
30   from God, so that we may know the things freely given to  
31   us by God, <sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words  
32   taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit,  
33   combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application**.

### **Observation (What does it say?):**

In line 10 Paul mentions his “message” (content, substance) and his “preaching” (form, method).

Circle specific statements about the substance of his message.

Underline what he says about the form of his preaching.

### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Which one (form or substance) is Paul emphasizing in this passage? Why?

What might a “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (l. 11) look like? (think back to his similar words in 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

What do you think is the mystery in line 17? He says understanding that mystery would that have prevented the crucifixion – what does he mean?

How does Paul relate the Spirit to the substance of his message and the form of his preaching?

### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

What part (in specific, practical ways) does the Holy Spirit affect the substance of what you believe?

How does He affect the form you use to communicate that belief?

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### Observation

(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer's thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### Interpretation

(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer's meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### Application

(What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer's meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel**