

**“MAXIMIZING EFFECTIVENESS AS  
GOD’S MESSENGER”**  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

## **INTRODUCTION**

All of us are called or “summoned” by God to present the Gospel. We are God’s messengers. As God’s messengers of His Gospel, is there anything to consider when it’s presented? Is there anything to consider as His representative? What should be our approach, and how should we conduct ourselves?

## **PAUL DIDN’T MIMIC CORINTH**

No doubt, Paul felt the pressure of Corinth comparing him to the best speakers. He refused to let that influence him. You might feel that pressure. Pastors certainly do, whether or not they’re a polished communicator. The Holy Spirit is drawing people out of the world to Himself. When people attend church they should ask, “Am I getting God’s truth here? Am I hearing what God is saying to me?” They should care less for the look and feel of the pastor and church décor.

## **STAY FOCUSED!**

The key word is “determined”. Paul made a decision on his approach. Again, it’s not that Paul couldn’t be what Corinth wanted and expected. He deliberately chose not to, and took a different approach! Unfortunately, there’s a lot of preaching and teaching that doesn’t include very much scripture at all. There’s talk about life, even Jesus, but not much Bible. It’s possible for pastors to feel obligated to cover everything Corinth was talking about, such as the news, politics, and special holiday messages. These are distractions! We have to be focused, undistracted – stayed on task to keep the main thing the main thing.

Why was this Paul’s approach? So their faith should **stand** (“come or go”) in the power of God. If a person’s faith is based on charisma, catchy phrases or style, it won’t hold at all!

## **CONSIDER**

- When you attend a Church, is your priority to learn God’s word?
- Can you ignore the aesthetics or at least give that a back seat to the Word?
- Can you ignore whether or not the pastor has charisma, or is entertaining?
- When you share the Gospel, please don’t have anxiety about your delivery; just focus on the main thing, the truth of it, and the heart of it.
- Paul did not try to imitate Corinth to win Corinth. We shouldn’t want the church to either!

## **PRAY ...**

- That church members would put the right priority on the Word of God when attending Church.
- That churches (and pastors) in the area would put a high premium, like Paul, on the Word and less on the building, aesthetics, their own charisma or style.
- That when people carry out the Great Commission, they won’t stress over their delivery or be concerned if they appeal to the people they are talking to.