

People of Word and Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Introduction: Corinth was a prosperous centre of trade and commerce. It was the biggest city that Paul had encountered. As well as being wealthy it was a place of many religions. There was the temple to Aphrodite with its emphasis on the glorification of sex. There was the worship of Melicertes the deity of navigation and the temple of Apollo worshipping the perfect male. If you wanted to enjoy life with no barriers, then you lived “like a Corinthian”. The church had all these pressures not only without it but within it. No wonder Paul says, “I came to you in weakness and fear, and much trembling”.

Looking at the passage, answer the following question and try to keep them practical.

- 1) David Watson at a conference on “Word and Spirit” said, “The Word without the Spirit you dry up. The Spirit without the Word you blow up. The Word with the Spirit you grow up”. What do you think he meant?
- 2) Paul said in verse 2, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”. If a friend asked you what Paul meant by this, what would you tell them?
- 3) What is the spirit of the world which Paul is speaking about and what is the Spirit of God? How do we see the difference?
- 4) What do you think Paul meant when he says the spiritual person has the “mind of Christ”?

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