

**Truth for the Troubled Church**  
**1 Corinthians: 2:1-5**

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How does Paul contrast the use of "superior speech and wisdom" in verse 1 with "the demonstration of the Spirit and of power" in verse 4?
3. Paul's message was focused on "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (vs 2). What about the message of Jesus Christ is lost when removed from the reality of the cross? What is gained?
4. Paul says in verse 3 that he was in Corinth "in weakness and in fear and in much trembling." Looking at the account of his time in Corinth found in Acts 18:1-11 and the surrounding context, why might Paul have felt this way and what can we learn from it?
5. How does physical and emotional circumstance affect our ability to evangelize?
6. Elsewhere we see evidence of Paul's impressive rhetorical skill (see, for example, Acts 26 – especially verses 24-29), but here Paul's message was purposefully "not in persuasive words of wisdom" (vs 4). In what circumstances might a Christian wisely choose to share their faith using logic and/or testimony?
7. Think back on some of the best sermons you have ever heard. What made them so memorable and effective?
8. What warning signs are there that a church's pursuit of excellence in things like music, graphics, facility, preaching, etc., have shifted focus away from the "power of God" (vs 5)? How does VBC do well in this, and where could we grow?
9. Do you think today's culture see's the Church as a testimony to the power of God? Why or why not?