

Keeping it Simple

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 1:17 - 2:5)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, September 20th, 2015

A Look At What Happened Before Corinth:

(Acts 17:16 - Acts 18:1)

Lessons Learned From Paul's Travels:

(1 Corinthians 1:17 - 2:5)

What to Emphasize:

(Rom 10:9-10, 2 Tim 2:23, Gal 2:21, Mat 16:26, Micah 6:8)

- a Relationship - not ... R _____
- a Cross - not ... C _____
- a Savior - not ... S _____

What to Expect:

(1 Cor 1:18, Mat 13:1-23, 1 Cor 1:26-31, Psalm 10:4)

- a _____ reaction
 - The largest factor is ...
 - The largest obstacle is ...

What to Remember:

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 1 Peter 3:15-16, Galatians 5:22-23)

- Our _____ and _____ go together.
- Our focus should be:
 - telling our ...
 - answering their ...

This Week's Discussion Guide:

This is 'week 2' of our 10 weeks we will be getting together to pray for one another and study God's Word together.

Getting Started:

Bob mentioned that as we share about Jesus Christ with others, our words and actions are both important. He shared that it is like a song we enjoy that has both a good melody and good words. Speaking of good songs, what is one of your favorite songs? What was a favorite song 'a few years back'? If folks don't know it, you might want to hum or sing a few bars!

Paul had a not so positive experience in Athens but continued to share at the next city which happened to be in Corinth. Personally or professionally when have experienced 'a slump' in some area of your life that you had to push through to eventually 'get your swing back'?

Looking back at your notes from Sunday, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you or raised a question as we heard a message from 1 Corinthians 1:17 - 2:5?

Digging Deeper:

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 gives us a great picture of the importance of our actions and words working together in sharing Christ with others. Read this passage and then answer the following questions:

- What do you think Paul meant by sharing his life in v8?
- What could it look like to share the Gospel and your life?
- List a few character qualities that Paul modeled as he kept it simple and shared the good news.
- What other insights from this passage can you share that will help our discussion?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:18. This verse sums up the good news. When we share this simple yet profound truth, we can expect a mixed reaction similar to what Paul experienced. Bob mentioned the 'parable of the soils' last Sunday. Let's read that passage and discuss it a bit. (Read Matthew 13:1-23)

- Can you remember what kind of soil might have described your life when you first heard the good news of Christ? Did your soil condition change over time? If so, what caused the change?
- If you could sow seeds into the life of anyone in your current circle of relationships and influence, who would you most like to see take a step closer to Jesus Christ? What could you do or say that might help that happen?

3. One effective means of sharing the Gospel with others is the 'Roman Road' that Rhonda Johnson shared a few weeks ago. Whether you are a new Christian, a long-time Christian, or still trying to understand Christianity, these verses can help us understand our need for salvation and how a relationship with Christ begins. As you read each verse, write down what essential truth each passage communicates about our relationship with Christ.

- Romans 1:19-20
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23 (see also Romans 5:8)
- Romans 10:9-11

Take a few minutes and talk to God together. Thank Him for what He has done for you. Ask Him to help you understand how you might share the 'Good News' with others.

4. Bob shared that there is no evidence Jesus ever came to a town and ministered to people's physical needs and moved on without letting them know who He was and why He came. When we have had a chance to serve someone by addressing their physical needs we have all felt hesitant at times to bring up the fact that God is the one working in and through our lives.

Knowing the importance to identify with Christ and share about God and not just show people God's love through meeting some of their physical needs, what are some ways you think are appropriate to bring up God and possibly the gospel?

What might be some inappropriate ways?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?