

The Most Important Thing

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified—I Corinthians 2:2

Of all the believers in the New Testament, Paul could have used philosophy and eloquent speech to present a compelling argument to persuade men to come to Christ but he knew what God would have him focus on. He did not have a “*sells pitch*” but preached Jesus Christ crucified.

He did not come as a scholar or lawyer. He did not come with the wisdom of men. He came as an ambassador who desired to be hidden behind his precious Savior. If he had come with eloquent words and impressed the crowd with his wisdom, He would have made the cross of Christ of no effect (I Cor. 1:17).

As we prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday we must focus first on the crucifixion. Whatever our abilities, we need to be careful not to magnify ourselves but use our gifts in a way that calls attention to Christ crucified. It is not about how great we are but how great Jesus is. John said, “*He must increase and I must decrease (John 3:30)*.”

Paul depended on the power of the Holy Spirit. It was not Paul’s experience, knowledge, or wisdom that gave his ministry power. Warren Wiersbe said, “His preaching was a demonstration not a performance.” It was a demonstration of the power of the cross. As we serve the Lord and desire to share the power of the crucified and risen Lord may we present the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.