

# DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

## A Study of 1 Corinthians



### 2. Depending on our own Wisdom

#### Introduction

The Apostle Paul had spent 18 months in Corinth where people from all races and levels of society had come to Christ. When he left, Apollos, a skilled Bible teacher came and taught, then Peter and others also visited. Sadly the Corinthian Christians had begun to compare preachers, saying they were following this one, or that one. Paul points them back to Christ and the message of the cross. He then goes on to speak about the power of the gospel and warns them not to depend on their own wisdom.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2:1-16

#### 1. The Foolishness of the Cross 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

- ✘ Why was it difficult for the Jews and the Greeks to understand the cross according to Paul? V22-23
- ✘ What difficulties do people have today to understand the message of the cross?
- ✘ Although the cross may seem foolish to others, why shouldn't we be ashamed? V18, 21, 24, Romans 1:16

#### 2. The Weakness of those Called 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- ✘ What sort of people has God chosen to belong to him? V26-28
- ✘ Why has God done this? V29-31

#### 3. Sharing the Message of the Cross 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- ✘ Why do you think Paul kept emphasizing that he did not come to them with human wisdom? V3-4
- ✘ Paul says he came in 'weakness and fear'; but then he goes on to say he came in God's power. What can we learn from him?

#### 4. Wisdom of God and the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

- ✘ What is this secret wisdom Paul is talking about in v7-8? Ephesians 1:8-9
- ✘ How does the Holy Spirit help us understand God's wisdom? V10-14

- ✘ What is the difference between a spiritual Christian and one who is worldly? 1 Corinthians 2:15 and 3:3-4.
- ✘ Although the Corinthian Christians were not acting like spiritual men and women, what does Paul remind them in 1 Corinthians 3:16? What encouragement does that give us?
- ✘ What can we learn from Paul's concluding thoughts on wisdom in 1 Corinthians 3:18-23?

### Conclusion

The problem that faced the church in Corinth is common today. Christians compare churches and pastors! However when we do this we are being worldly and unspiritual. This is man's wisdom, not God's. Paul reminds us that we have received the Holy Spirit and he will help us understand God's ways. Then we will not boast about men, but only about Jesus Christ.