

Elder Bobby Willis



I Corinthians 2:1, **“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.”**

Occasionally I hear a man, while he is attempting to preach, tell story after story after story, with very little scriptural content. While at other times it is hard for me to understand due to words being used that are not common to my vocabulary. Some of the best preaching I ever heard, filled with the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God, was done by men who either lacked formal education, or never let you know of their education. There were no big words which many in the congregation did not know nor did they use language uncommon to their audience. Their education in preaching came from much study and relying on the increase of the spirit which only God can give. Paul said he **“came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom”**. Paul is referring to words and language uncommon to his congregation and/or which would tend to show him to be wise of his own self as shown by verse 6 where he wrote, **“and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”** He was well learned in the writings of the Old Testament having been brought up **“at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers...”** (Acts 22.3). How then did Paul come before them? He told them he was with them **“in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.”** Don’t think for a minute that Paul was saying that the gospel was poured in the top of his head and it just came out of his mouth. That was not the case. Paul told the Galatian church this truth, **“For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

Paul had learned the “letter of the law” and the Old Testament scriptures but did not have *Spiritual Understanding* until the Lord dealt with him. God called men must study to show themselves **“approved unto God”**. Then, in order to preach in

a manner acceptable to God, they need the revelation of the Spirit both in their study and while preaching so they will not be ashamed. That's why Paul refrained from taking any credit upon himself and why he instructed Timothy and others to study (II Timothy 2:15). What then must church attendees do when they plan to go to church? We all must pray for the preacher that God will bless his study so the sheep and the lambs are fed from the Word of God. ***Think about it!***