

**Title:** “Paul the Apologist for Fideism”

**Introduction:** In chapter one Paul explained his method of preaches the way he does. In chapter two Paul explained why he employed the method of preaching that he did. Paul was addressing the Christians at Corinth. He wanted to make plain to the Corinthians believers that Christianity was all about Christ. Christ is central to the faith. Paul was a logical thinker and his apologetical method fit with his personality. His speech was not intended to be flowery or deceptive. He sought to have God’s wisdom and not the world’s wisdom. He came and preached to the church at Corinth not in his power but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Propositional Question:** What Paul did in his life was to turn away from a works religion, and he accepted a relationship with God by faith. Should everyone live by faith?

**Text: I Corinthians 2:1- 8** “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

**CONTEXT:**

**Who:** Paul the Apostle and the Apologist.

**What:** Paul the Apologist gives reasoning for his beliefs based on faith.

**Where:** Paul wrote the book in Corinth.

**When:** The epistle of Corinthians was written in 56 AD.

**How:** Paul was led and empowered by the power of God.

## **INTERPRETATION:**

**Key theme:** Paul developed an argument for his belief in God based on faith.

**Key words:** Brethren, speech, testimony, Jesus Christ, crucified, wisdom, world, God, glory.

**Summary of the text:** Paul explained to the church at Corinth that his style or method of preaching was not, nor was it intended to be colorful and flowery speech. Paul made clear to his listeners that Christ is central in theology, in the common faith, and in his preaching. He was saying that Christ would be preeminent in his preaching. And also that Christ' was crucified and resurrected. He declared that he was coming to the Corinth church to minister to them in the power of the God and not in his own strength. Paul was making his Apologetic argument that the one can only be a Christian by faith in the resurrected Saviour. One cannot be saved in their own wisdom or strength.

**Summary of the passage:** Paul wanted to make sure the church at Corinth had a solid understanding the Christ was central to the Christian belief. He also taught them in an Apologetic manner that they must be believing in the risen Christ by faith. He was teaching them that sound Bible teaching and preaching does not come about by lawyerly speak but rather by the power of God resting on the preacher. The power Paul was explaining doesn't come from man's wisdom, and thus the Corinthians should trust in the power of God to preach the Word. The Corinthians Paul taught that they must trust in Christ by faith.

**Summary of the main verse: I Corinthians 2:5** "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Paul warned about trusting in the wisdom of men. One could say this was a contrast between Aristotle's thinking and Fideism. Paul was arguing for Fideism, which is to say, by faith in Christ, and not faith in man. Paul argued that the power of God is far more powerful than the wisdom of men.

## **APPLICATION:**

**Original audience:** At the church of Corinth. Pauls' audience was to the Corinthian Christians.

**To myself:** It is important to question my own thinking to check to see if Aristotle is thinking or is Fideism is in practice.

**To family:** When witnessing to family one must remember to operate in the Spirit of the Lord.

**To church:** The local church must remind herself to be operating in the power of God.

**To my job:** The Christian on the job must be prayed up, and living in the Spirit daily at work.

**To society:** The Christian should see their life in lite of history, testimony, and legacy.