

Date: Sunday, May 25, 2025 – Worship Service

Introduction

- God’s method of evangelism:
 - ① Using the message of the cross, which seems foolish to the world
 - ② Using those who are foolish, weak, and as nothing
- Today’s theme: What is faith? Learning from how Paul actually preached.

1. Paul preached only Christ crucified, not with human words or wisdom (2:1–2)

- Paul was a scholar of the Law and a Roman citizen, an intellectual
- Though coming from Athens, the city of philosophy, he avoided philosophical persuasion
- Gnosticism and mystical knowledge were popular, but he resisted that influence
- Gnosticism shares similarities with today’s spiritual mysticism
- Instead of speaking so-called mystical truths like today’s spiritual trends, he proclaimed only “Christ and Him crucified”

👉 Application Question:

Have I made the *decision* to preach only the cross, not adapting to the world?

2. Paul came in weakness, fear, and trembling (2:3)

- Hardships leading to Corinth:
Persecution in Philippi → Escape from Thessalonica and Berea → Cold reception in Athens
- His intellectual approach in Athens weighed heavily on him
- He arrived in Corinth in fear and weakness

👉 Point:

It is precisely in weakness that the power of God works.

3. Evangelism through the Holy Spirit and the power of God (2:4–5)

- Preaching was not with human wisdom, but with demonstration of the Spirit and power
- Acts 18:
 - Moved into the house of Titius Justus for ministry
 - The Lord encouraged him in a vision: “Do not be afraid. Keep on speaking.”
 - Stayed a year and a half, focusing on evangelism (second longest after Ephesus)

👉 Purpose:

So that faith would rest on *God's power*

Conclusion

- Salvation does not come through human wisdom, but by the power of God
- Even in weakness and fear, we continue to preach Christ crucified
- It is not our strength, but the Lord's power that leads people to salvation
- Faith is rooted in the power of God

One-line Message

“Do not be afraid. Keep on speaking. Do not be silent.” (Acts 18:9)