

Face the Facts with Faith

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Introduction:

- A. The Christian faith is based on the facts of Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection.
1. People can face the facts with their intellect and accept them without being saved (e.g. demons accept the facts but tremble – Jms 2:19).
 2. People can face the facts with their emotions and be moved by Christ's suffering without being saved (Matt 13:20,21)
 3. People can face the facts with a rational response without being saved (recite the Sinner's Prayer as a formula)
 4. People must face the facts with faith in order to be saved.
- B. Two things to remember when you witness, pray for someone's salvation, or support the spreading of the gospel:

Faith is not based on manipulation but revelation (1-5)

- A. How Paul did NOT present the gospel to the Corinthians
1. Not with words that would be considered sophisticated speech.
 2. Not with words of wisdom - clever arguments that would win a debate.
- B. How Paul DID present the gospel to the Corinthians
1. In faith and trembling (refers to a deep respect – see this same idiom in 2 Cor 7:15; Eph 6:5; Phil 2:12).
 2. In weakness
 - a. Can mean intellectual (1 Cor 11:30)
 - b. Can mean physical (2 Cor 12:10 but see Acts 18:9,10)
 - c. Can mean moral weakness (Heb 4:15 but Paul was above reproach)
 - d. Can mean a comparative weakness (Heb 11:34), which is what Paul means in this context – weak speech is plain and simple (see verses 2,4)
- C. Faith is not based on the power of the presenter to manipulate people into a decision to accept Christ, but the power of God through the revelation of the gospel.

Faith is not an intellectual condition but a spiritual connection (6-10)

- A. God's wisdom (the gospel of Christ) was h_____ prior to Christ's coming in the Old Testament (vv 6,7)
 - 1. Genesis 3:15 – a savior from Eve's seed would defeat S_____
 - 2. Isaiah 53 – a person known as the Suffering Servant would bear the s_____ of people by being whipped, mocked, and killed.
 - 3. Daniel 9:26 – the Messiah would be cut off and have n_____
 - 4. Psalm 16:10 – the Holy One would not undergo d_____ (would not stay dead)
- B. God's wisdom (the gospel of Christ) was not embraced by the religious or political rulers, otherwise they would not have c_____ Jesus (v. 8)
 - 1. Matt 5:17 – Jesus taught that He came to f_____ the Law and the Prophets.
 - 2. Luke 4:16-21 – Jesus introduced Himself as fulfilling the role of the Suffering S_____ which He read about in the scroll.
 - 3. Luke 19:38-40; 22:66-71; John 18:37 – Jesus openly proclaimed Himself to be the C_____, the Son of God.
 - 4. Matt 27:62-66 – Jesus proclaimed that He would rise from the dead t_____ days later.
- C. God's revelation of the gospel can only save a person if the S_____ works through the message.
 - 1. Jn 6:44 – No one can come to Jesus unless the Father d_____ that person to Jesus.
 - 2. Jn 16:7-9 – The Spirit is the one who c_____ the unbelieving world to believe (the Greek word translated as *reprove*, *convict*, *prove* means to *convince so as to believe*)
 - 3. The Spirit brings a person into a personal spiritual connection with God through faith (that is the beginning of salvation – 1 Cor 6:17; Eph 2:8,9)

Conclusion:

- A. When you witness to someone, your number one concern is that the person face the gospel facts with genuine f_____ - depend upon God's power.
- B. When you pray for someone's salvation, your number one concern is that they face the gospel facts with genuine f_____.
- C. When you support the spread of the gospel, your number one concern is o_____ (Matt 28:18-20). You do your part and leave the results up to God.