

## Nothing but Christ Crucified (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-5—Nothing but Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.* <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; <sup>4</sup> and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but *in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*, <sup>5</sup> that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Cor 2:1-5)

1. Wisdom: no “lofty words” (like those of philosophers) (1:1)
2. The Cross: nothing but Jesus Christ “and him crucified” (1:2)
3. Miracles: demonstration of “the Spirit” and “of power” (1:4)

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you in all patience, with *signs and wonders and mighty works*. (2 Cor 12:12)

### The Living Tradition

John Chrysostom: And to me it seems that he [Paul] speaks to them in a lower tone even than to any others, in order to repress their pride. Thus, the expression, “I determined to know nothing,” was spoken in contradistinction to the wisdom which is without. “For I came not weaving syllogisms nor sophisms, nor saying unto you anything else than” Christ was crucified.” They indeed have ten thousand things to say, and concerning ten thousand things they speak, winding out long courses of words, framing arguments and syllogisms, compounding sophisms without end. *But I came unto you saying no other thing than “Christ was crucified,” and all of them I outstripped*: which is a sign such as no words can express of the power of Him whom I preach.” (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on 1 Corinthians* 6.1; in *NPNF1* 12.29)

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. What does Paul mean when he speaks about the Corinthians “call” or “vocation”? How is this relevant for your life? To what has God “called” you?

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### For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).