



SPEAK **JESUS**

A MISSIONAL VITALITY SERIES

ARTICULATION OF THE GOSPEL

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him,

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

¹ And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

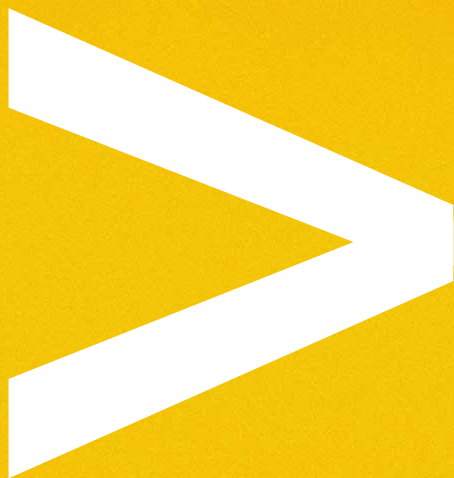
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

We preach **Christ crucified**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23

² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified.**

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2





**GOD'S
FOOLISHNESS**

>

**HUMAN
WISDOM**

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him,

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20-24

God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and **foolishness to Gentiles,**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20-24

²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20-24

God... alone is wise

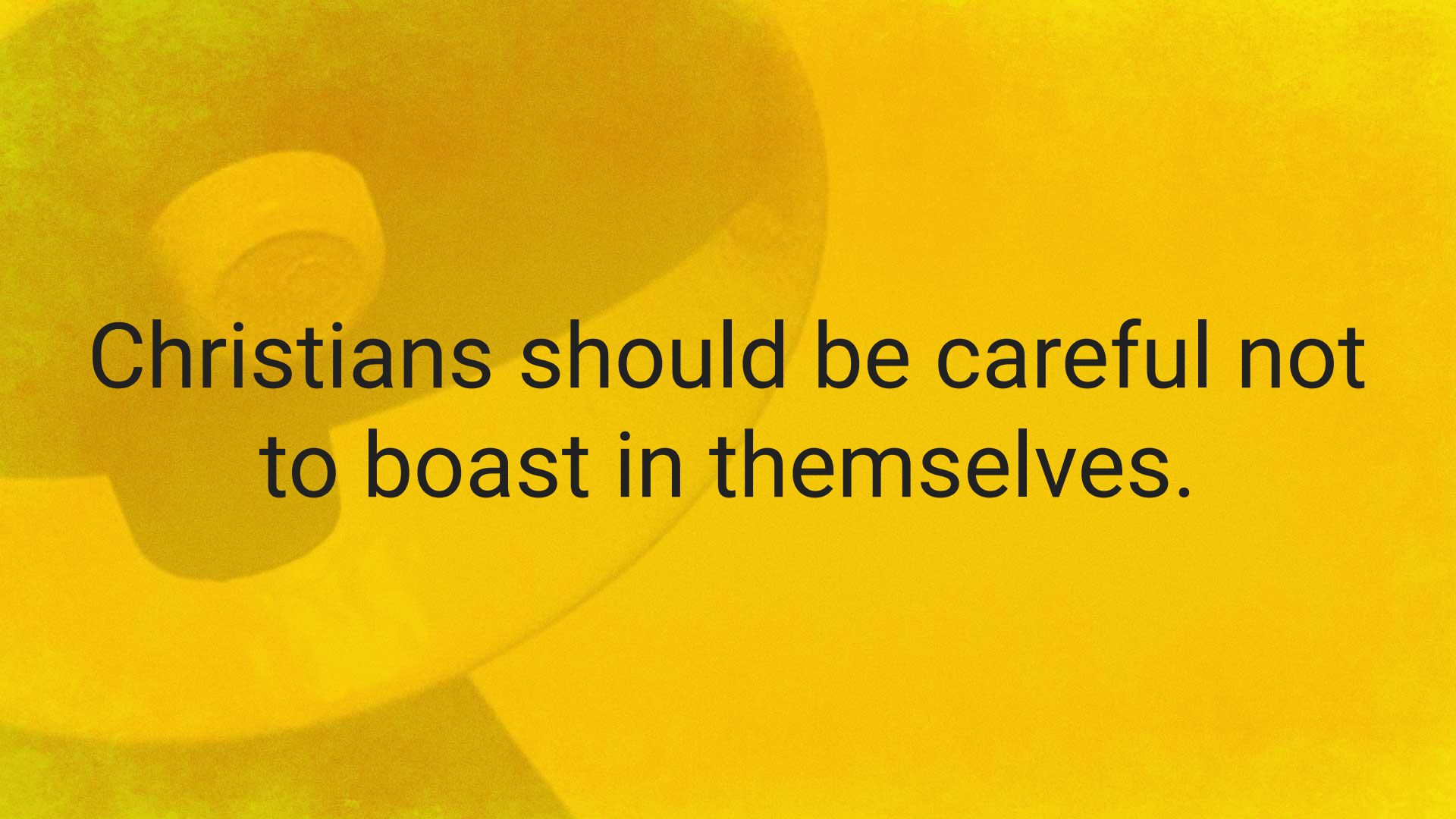
1 TIMOTHY 1:17 (NKJV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

ROMANS 11:33

⁵ As you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the body is formed in a mother's
womb, so you cannot understand the
work of God, the Maker of all things.

ECCLESIASTES 11:5



Christians should be careful not
to boast in themselves.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.

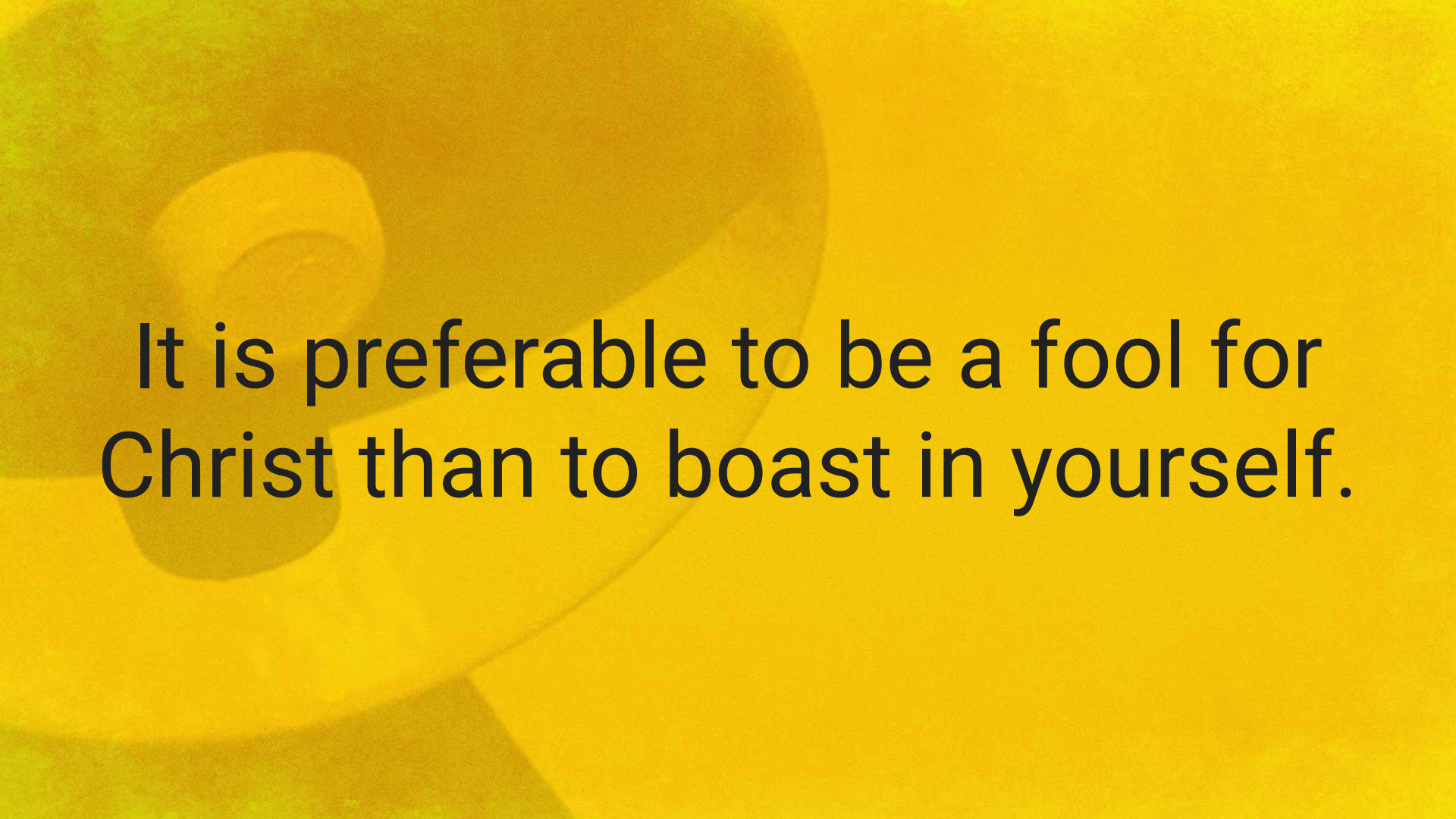
1 CORINTHIANS 3:18

²¹ So then, no more boasting about
human leaders!

1 CORINTHIANS 3:21

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:31



It is preferable to be a fool for
Christ than to boast in yourself.



**GOD'S
WEAKNESS
>
HUMAN
STRENGTH**

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

Social class was important to Jews and Gentiles, however, Christianity neither recognized nor awarded such privileges.

“Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 19:23

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:3

Spiritual class was important to the Corinthian believers, however, God neither recognized nor awarded such privileges.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10



**SIMPLE
WORDS**

>

**ELOQUENT
WORDS**

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come **with eloquence** or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

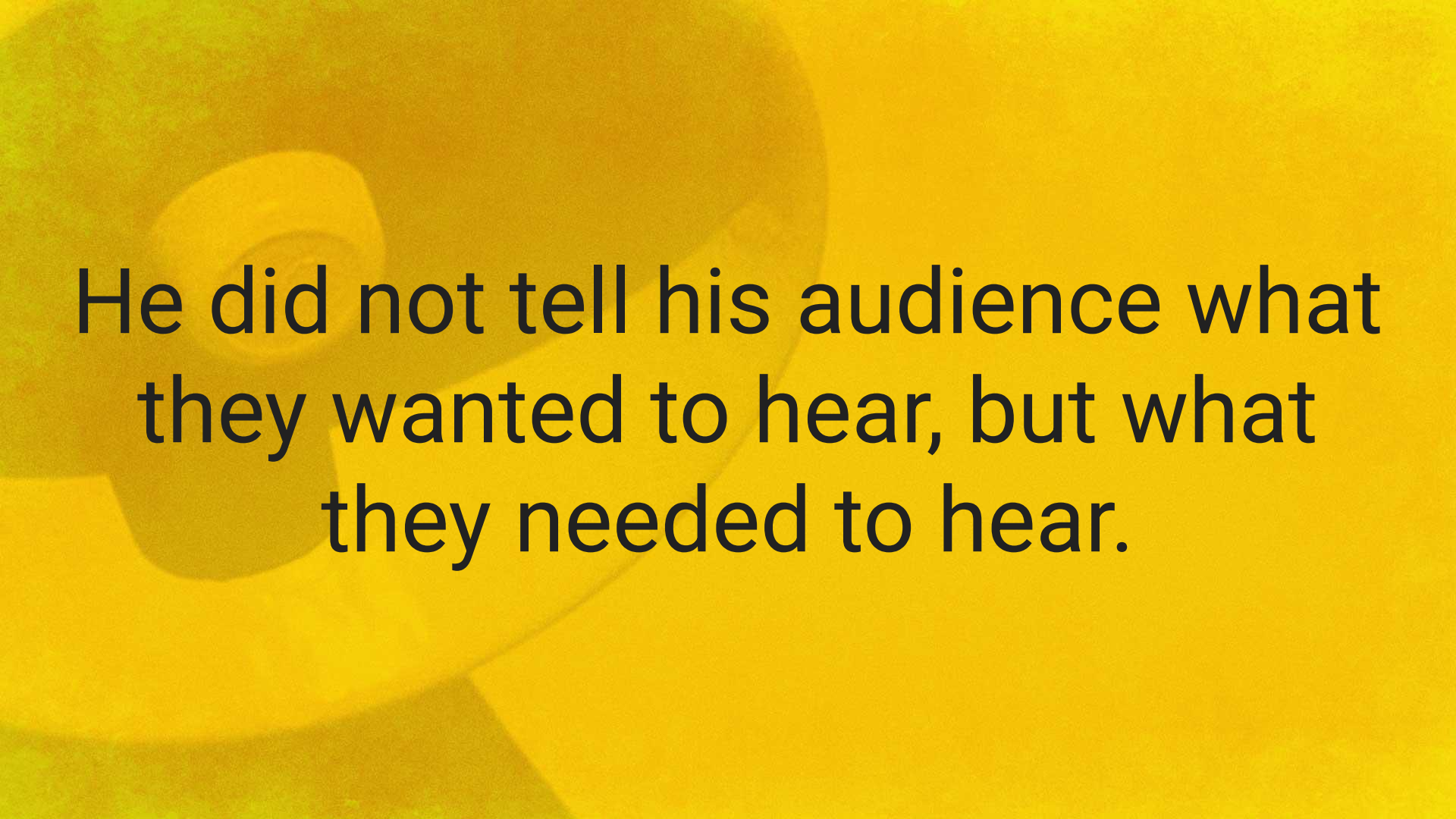
³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and **persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

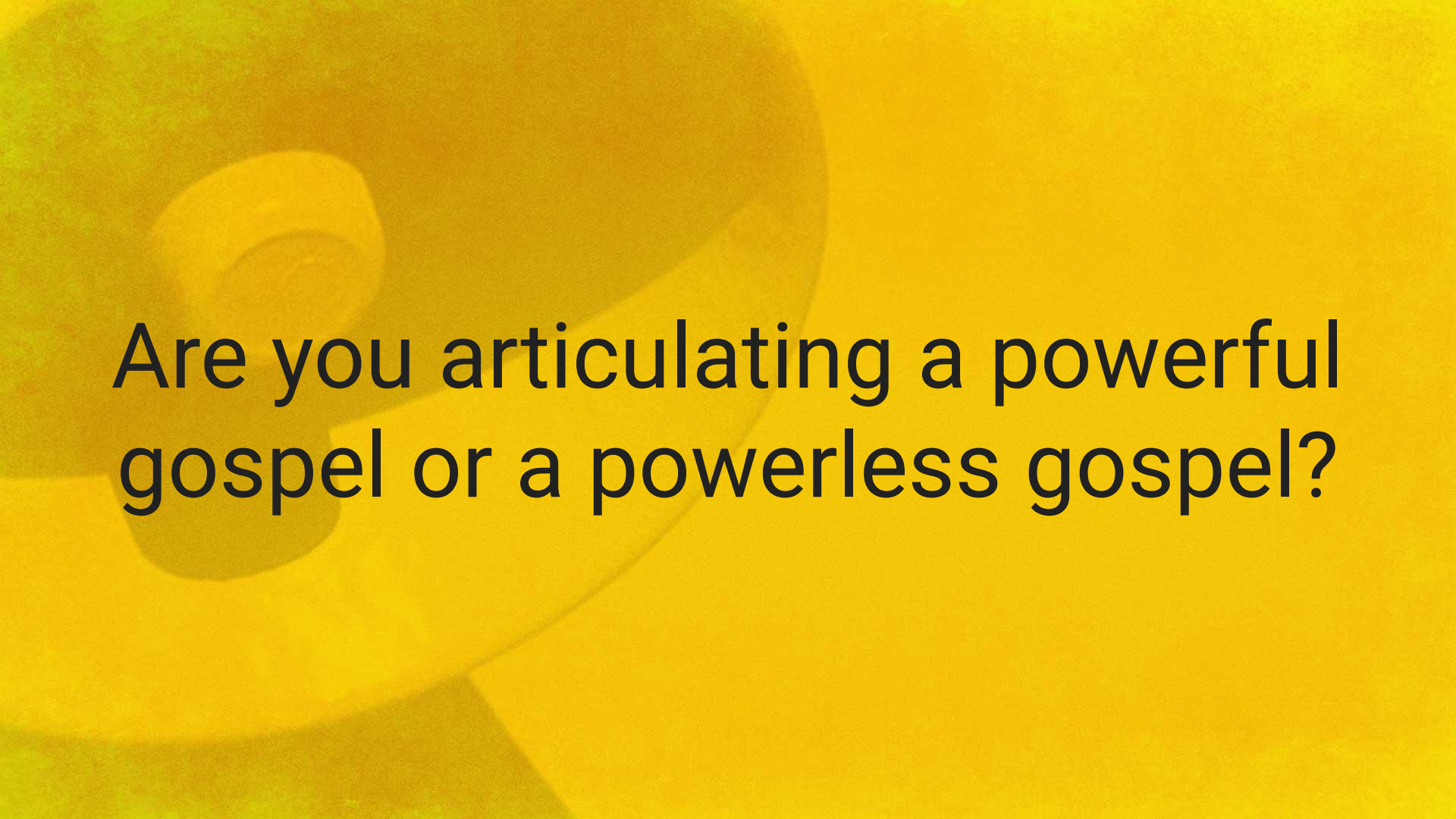
¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel—not with
wisdom and eloquence, **lest the cross
of Christ be emptied of its power.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17

There is nothing you can add or do to embellish the gospel in order to make it more palatable.



He did not tell his audience what
they wanted to hear, but what
they needed to hear.



Are you articulating a powerful
gospel or a powerless gospel?

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter
of talk but of power.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20



ROMANS ROAD

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of
the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

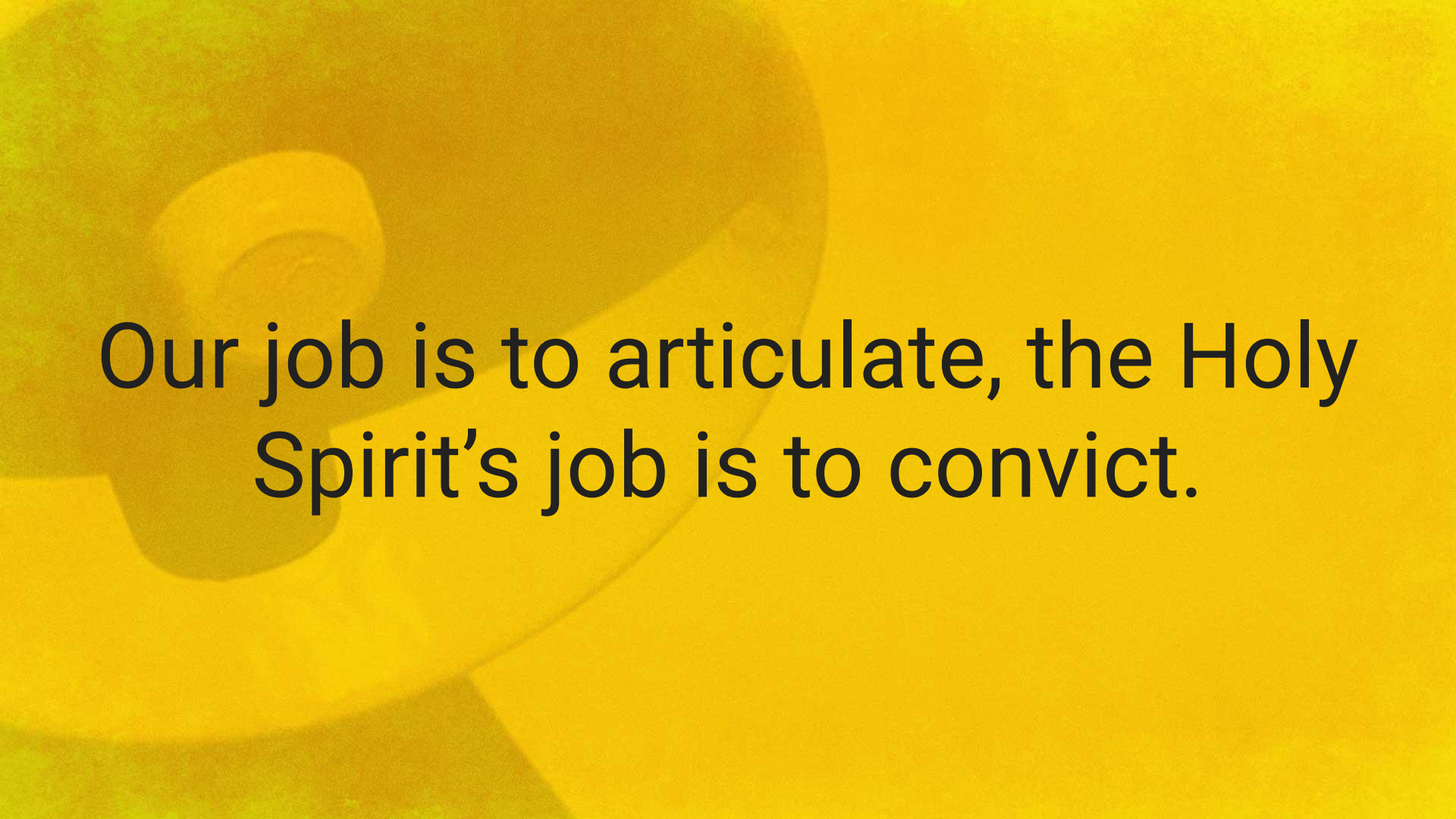
ROMANS 5:8

⁹ If you declare with your mouth,
“Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your
heart that God raised him from
the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9

Everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord will be saved.

ROMANS 10:13



Our job is to articulate, the Holy
Spirit's job is to convict.

SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) > HUMAN WISDOM
- 2) > HUMAN STRENGTH
- 3) > HUMAN WORDS



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