

## **BOTTOM LINE**

### **Scripture Reading:** Read 1 Corinthians 2

Turn on the television, listen to a radio broadcast or pick up a newspaper and the probability is high that you will run into at least one cliché. Watch a sports broadcast or listen to a politician or political commentator and the odds go up exponentially that you will not only hear at least one cliché, you will hear many of them. What makes clichés so annoying is that they originally expressed a popular idea but through overuse have become nothing more than trite, stereotyped statements or phrases. Try these on for size.

- ★ They're giving 110 percent
- ★ The ball's in your court
- ★ He's a team player
- ★ They always step up to the plate
- ★ She didn't have her "A" game
- ★ Literally
- ★ At the end of the day
- ★ When all is said and done
- ★ This one is for all the marbles
- ★ Dodging the bullet
- ★ It was a slam dunk
- ★ His back is up against the wall
- ★ They talk a good game
- ★ We're not on the same page
- ★ Stay the course
- ★ They're in a must-win situation
- ★ We have to take it to the next level
- ★ It's back to the drawing board
- ★ Bottom line
- ★ They're on the ropes

So, why do we use them? Because, even though they are annoying, they do convey a point. For example, the cliché "bottom line" gets used often. It's similar in meaning to the phrase "At the end of the day" or "When all is said and done." Originally, "bottom line" was a business term and referred to the last line of a financial statement that showed either a net profit or loss to a company. Over time, it came to refer to a deciding or crucial factor or to an ultimate result or outcome in any field, and not just business.

In today's chapter reading, Paul told the Corinthians, "...I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Translating this into today's cliché-laden language, Paul's bottom line was Jesus Christ and him crucified. Paul knew that unless the Corinthians' faith was rooted in who Jesus was and what he had done at the cross, they would literally be on the ropes in no time flat. This is why, at the end of the day, he wanted their faith to rest on God's power and not on human wisdom. For, when all was said and done, Paul wanted the Corinthians to be impressed by Jesus and moved by His Spirit rather than be mesmerized by any fancy eloquence or wise and persuasive words on his part.

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** How Jesus-focused are you in your life? Do you seek His face, honor His commands, and follow His lead? Bottom line, is your life all about knowing and glorifying Jesus? Depending on your answer, allow the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers in a way that brings your focus back on Jesus and him crucified.

**Take-a-way:** *At the end of the day, when all is said and done, the bottom line is Jesus.*