

THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS

1 CORINTHIANS 1

Text: 1 Cor. 1:18

(1 Corinthians 1:18) "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

Introduction:

To some the cross is a symbol of cruelty. It certainly was a cruel form of execution, but that is not the focus of the cross today. Today, the cross stands for the completed work of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness". For those who have never been to the cross for salvation do not understand the purpose and the reason for it.

The cross is of great importance to the believer today. It is far more than just a religious symbol. The Apostle Paul said that he would glory in the cross.

(Galatians 6:14) "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Let me give you three reasons today why the message of the cross is so important, why it means so much to those who are born again.

1. IT IS A SAVING MESSAGE.

A. Note: 1 Co. 15:1-4

(1 Corinthians 15:1-4) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. {3} For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

1. The message of the cross is a wonderful message.
2. It is the message that I heard when I got saved, and if you are saved today, it is the message that you heard, also.
3. I like that word saved.

(Acts 16:30-31) "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? {31} And they said, Believe

on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

4. If you are saved today, it is because you have heard and responded to the message of the cross.

B. The opposite of saved = lost.

1. To be lost is a terrible thing.

2. Watch the news and see the response of people when a child is missing.

3. Even when the family pet has gone astray.

4. Consider what it is to be lost for all of eternity.

5. No hope of deliverance, no prospect of things getting better, how discouraging and depressing!

6. Yet, that is exactly what will happen to those who reject the message of the cross.

7. The only alternative is to spend eternity in hell, separated from God.

C. The message of the cross is a saving message.

1. Because it speaks of the One who gave His life that we might be saved.
2. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God which taketh away our sin.
3. Have we put our faith in Christ?
4. Have we accepted the message of the cross or have we rejected it?
5. The message of the cross will save our souls.

2. IT IS A SIMPLE MESSAGE.

A. It isn't hard to understand.

1. The message of John 3:16 is clear and easily understood.
2. Even little children can understand that God loved them so much that He gave His Son, Jesus to die on the cross for them.
3. A simple message means that it is not complicated.

B. Man complicates this simple message.

1. That is where religion comes into play.

2. Man took the simple message that God loves you and complicated it by adding all sorts of requirements.

3. How often have we looked at something and said, "That is just too simple!"

4. We look for things to be complicated, and when they aren't we set about to make them that way.

5. That is true in all areas of our lives, and unfortunately it is also true of religion.

C. God's simple plan of salvation.

1. Simple so that all can come to Christ.

2. Simple so that none will be excluded.

3. Simple so that none will be confused.

3. IT IS A SATISFYING MESSAGE.

A. It will satisfy the longing of our soul.

1. We are born into this world with a longing for fulfillment.

2. Unfortunately some seek to fill the void in their lives with things.

(Ezek 7:19) "...Their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls..."

3. Others try to fill it with accomplishments.

4. But only Jesus can satisfy our soul.

5. If your soul cries out for something that is missing today.

6. It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is missing in your life.

B. Don't wait too long.

1. The Bible instructs us that today is the day of salvation.

2. It warns us to not put it off, tomorrow may be too late!

3. Comment of a grandfather, "I wish I had brought my children up like this."

4. No doubt there will be some who will leave here today without heeding this message.

5. But it will not be because there is something wrong with the message of the cross, it will only be because you choose not to accept that message.

Close:

The message of the cross is a saving message, a simple message, and a satisfying message. Come today and receive Christ.