

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 7

4 August 2017

First 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.”

WHAT SHOULD WE PREACH ABOUT THE CROSS?

1. **Philippians 2:5-8**. The cross is the instrument of the death of Jesus Christ. Jesus came into this world to die on a cross. “He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Nobody killed Jesus Christ. He offered Himself a sacrifice to pay for your sins.

2. **John 19:17-25**. Though many people (good and bad) were present at the cross at Calvary, Jesus Christ was the only one there who can save you from your sins.

3. **Matthew 27:39-41, Mark 15:29-32**. Jesus died for those very people present at the cross who were wagging their heads, mocking, taunting, insulting Him, and counting Him as a fool. He had the power to come down off that cross and save Himself, but he chose to save others.

4. **Colossians 2:13-14**. The ordinances that were against us were also nailed to the cross with Christ so that the blood of Christ covers them all. The very Law that would condemn us is covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. In effect, every sin that a person might commit is covered by the blood.

5. **Ephesians 2:11-16**. The cross of Jesus Christ not only reconciles every believer to God, but also reconciles every believer one to another as a result. The cross unites man to God, but also unites man to man. Peace is possible in Jesus Christ.

6. **Matthew 10:38, 16:24**. Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow Him. We only need to consider what He did for us to know what it means to follow Him: lay down your life for others, love those who don't love you, don't be selfish, be a peacemaker.
 - a. **Luke 14:18-27**. Those who are self-centered will not follow Jesus. They will be more concerned with possessions, occupation, and family.
 - i. Having those things is not wrong unless they prevent you from following Jesus.
 - ii. Getting saved, going to church, singing hymns, and learning about Jesus doesn't make you His disciple (vs. 27). You're His disciple when you are willing to die to self, love others, and make peace.
 - b. **Luke 9:21-23**. Following Jesus involves suffering, being rejected, and ready to die (vs. 22).
 - i. This attitude and philosophy will help you to avoid problems in your marriage, in your church, and in every aspect of life. Put down your flesh and yield to the Holy Spirit.
 - c. **Mark 8:34-38**. Following Jesus involves denying yourself for the sake of Jesus Christ and the gospel. Care enough about others to preach the cross even in the presence of those who mock you and treat you unkindly. Don't be ashamed of the Lord. Give Him your life.
