

THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

19 July 2024

Vs 18 “For the preaching of THE cross...”

- When we say, “**The cross**,” it includes everything the bible says happened concerning the cross that Jesus died on at Calvary, how it happened, why it happened, and what it accomplished.
 - Men say, “*I believe Jesus died on a cross.*” That is not the preaching of the cross. That is merely an historical fact.
 - Many sinful men died on a cross. That is not the preaching of the cross.
 - Crucifixion was simply a form of torture and a means of execution.
- God came into this world, lived a sinless life as a man, took our sins in His body, and died on a cross to pay for the sins of all men. That is the preaching of the cross.

“For the preaching of the cross—IS...” It is a present truth.

- The God-ordained religion of the Jews—WAS. It is no longer relevant.
- The preaching of the cross began the moment Jesus Christ died on the cross and it continues till this day. It cancels the Jewish religion.
- Modern day religions continually change what they believe.
 - The preaching of the cross today is the same as it ever was.
 - The preaching of the cross doesn’t need to be adapted or modified for different cultures, countries, or races.

“For the preaching of the cross...is the power of God”

- Your good Christian life is not the power of God. You must tell people what Jesus did on the cross.
- The power of God is not in the preacher, but in the gospel (Rom 1:16).
 - When a *corrupt* man preaches the cross of Christ, people can be saved because the power of God is in the preaching of the cross, not the man.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish...”

- One of the hardest things about witnessing today is convincing people that they are perishing; that they are headed for eternal hellfire.
- **John 3:16** says a loving God did what needed to be done to prevent you from perishing. But if you don’t believe that, you will perish.
- **Baptism doesn’t save anyone** (1 Cor 1:17). The gospel saves anyone who believes it.
- **Being smart doesn’t save anyone** (1 Cor 1:17). Smart or not so smart, you need to believe what Jesus did on the cross to pay for your sins. That will have an effect.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness...”

- Preaching the cross to lost people will give them the impression that you are a fool.
 - People generally view themselves as good people, so when you tell them they need their sins forgiven, they see you as a fool.
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“...but unto us which are saved...” Our salvation is a completed transaction.

- Modern bible translations read *“to us which are being saved.”* This is not the preaching of the cross. If you have believed the gospel, you are saved. **“It is finished!”** (John 19:30).

“...unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

- Speaking in tongues is not the power of God.
- Spiritual trickery and hypnotic suggestion is not the power of God.
- The power of God is displayed when God forgives you and saves you from your sins when you trust Jesus Christ.

“¹⁹ For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise...²⁰ hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”

- People today tend to trust the news media and educated people more than they trust the authority of holy scripture.

“²¹ ...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

- God would be pleased to save you—if you will only believe what you’ve heard today.
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