

Good Friday 2026

“The Message of the Cross”

I Corinthians 1:18

Introduction – Read I Corinthians 1:18

- every day we exchange messages with one another
 - but whether or not we understand that message, well that is quite another deal.
- You see my wife is always trying to communicate to me, You have food in your teeth, there is something in your beard
 - But the problem is I never get it – she is being sly, wiping her mouth subtly – I think she is saying she loves me – “I love you too honey”
- Of course it took me a long time to understand the reverse, when she would walk up to me and ask, “anything in my tteeth” – what about your teeth, I would ask loudly
 - I wasn’t getting the message

Well – Paul in our text tonight is wanting the Corinthian Church not to miss the message of the cross

- they were getting wrapped up in division and foolish disputing, this happens when we get our eyes off Jesus
 - and Paul turns their eyes to the cross and is basically saying to them – have you considered the message of the cross??? – what it is saying

Because when people do they have one of three reactions to it

Reactions to the Cross

#1 – The Gentiles considered it foolishness

- your King was killed like a common criminal? – how is that good news, why is that a good day? - why would you follow Him – foolishness!!!!

Reactions to the Cross

#1 – The Gentiles considered it foolishness

#2 – The Jews see it as a stumbling block

- They understand a little further – that Christ was being a sacrifice for their sin
 - Yet is speaks to them – that they can't do it on their own, they can't keep the law
 - And they just can't get over that
- We can do it, we don't need a savior – they were stumbled by what the cross was saying to them

Reactions to the Cross

#1 – The Gentiles considered it foolishness

#2 – The Jews see it as a stumbling block

#3 – To us, it's the Power of God!

- Why?

Well tonight– let us consider what is the message of the cross

- I look at it, consider it, think it through and a few things come through loud and clear, and I want you to consider them with me this Good Friday
 - That the cross of Jesus Christ, might be power to all of our lives
- What is the message of the cross – what is God saying to you and to me????
 - There are many things – but tonight I want you to consider 3

The Message of the Christ

#1 – God hates sin

- When I look, really look at the cross it tells me that what God really feels about sin, and that is that He hates it, remember the way Proverbs 6:16 opens up

“These six things the Lord hates...” – Proverbs 6:16

- Sin is not a casual thing to the Lord – it is not something that is take it or leave it or I don't care, God hates sin

This is so important for every one of us to hear

- Because the world sugar coats it – boys being boys, it's just girl talk, it's not really gossip

The mood of the world so often toward sin is that sin is something that should be tolerated or even glorified. – drunkenness, fornication

- Well Christians tonight I want you to put out of your mind what the world feels about sin
 - What even your own flesh might feel
 - And I want you to consider the message of the cross.

God hates sin –

- Look at what was done to Him - describe
 - He was beaten, so badly He was unreconizable
 - He was whipped with a cat of nine tails, ripping out parts of your back
 - He carried His cross through the streets of Jerusalem where people mocked Him until He just couldn't do it anymore, so beat down by all that went before Him
 - He was hung upon on cross, nailing ripping through his median nerve
 - Pressing His body up on the nail his ankle bone was resting upon
 - He became my sin and your sin
- And eventually suffocating to death – I want you to think about it

That horrible picture is what sin looks like to God

- it is not something to be laughed at, something to tolerated
 - No, look at the cross, consider the message of the cross
 - See what Jesus endured

Notice also who it was who was doing this to him

- yes it was the Romans

And yes it was the Jews

- yes it was my sin and your sin that put Him there

But the Bible says it was God who did this to his son – not just as an observer for Isaiah says...

“It pleased the LORD to bruise Him;” – Isaiah 53:10

- and Matthew records Jesus as saying in Matthew 27...

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" – Matthew 27:46

- Jesus is saying, “this is you, that is doing this to me.”
 - Why would the Bible declare this?
 - Why would God do this to His son?.

The answer is because Jesus was dying for the sin of the world, and what you see on the cross is how the Lord feels about sin.

- He hates it – He hates what it does, and what it produces, He hates what it cost – This is the message of the cross

As I look at the cross, not only does it tell me that God hates sin, but

The Message of the Christ

#1 – God hates sin

#2 – God keeps His promises

- Let me explain what I mean

When I look at the cross, not only do I see that God hates sin

- But I see God fulfilling His promise to punish it

“For the wages of sin is death” – Romans 6:23

- God says the sin earns death, that is the penalty

Now, because God has promised that is the way it was going to be – if someone stole from you, you would not want a judge to toss out the case – neither does God

Because He is holy and righteous

- He cannot just forgive sin because He wants to
 - He cannot just turn the other way and choose not to do anything – His holiness and His righteousness would not allow it
- What I am saying is His nature would not allow it

God knew He must punish sin and yet because of equally powerful natures of God, mainly His love and His grace, God knew it was His son that would stand in our place

- so He declare in His word...

“Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” – Isaiah 53:4-6

- it was promised beforehand that God would punish sin through His Son
 - And as awful as it was
 - And what that was like for Him
- As awful as it was, there had to be a punishment for sin, so God did what He promised to do.

You who are parents know this – we have all seen another parent that say – “One more time...” “One more time...” “One more time...” – And every time I hear that, I want to say ‘deal with it already because if not they are learning something, you are communicating something – and what you are communicating is that you will not keep your promises

So as much as you hate it, you follow through

- our Heavenly Father is the same way
 - righteous and just – keeping His promises

This is the message of the cross.

- that He hates sin, that He keep His word, and...

The Message of the Christ

#1 – God hates sin

#2 – God keeps His promises

#3 – How valuable we are to Him

- How valuable we are to Him
 - How valuable our relationship with Him is
 - How valuable our souls are to the living God.

I see this, because I see what it cost Him to give it to me

- When you think about it, sin is the greatest problem God has ever had to deal with

Put it in perspective with creation

- Before God created – there was nothing
 - And yet creation cost Him 6 days and some words
- A word was enough for creation, but it was not enough for salvation
 - That costs God His only son
 - Now I have a son – and I have you guys – and I love you guys so much
- I would do most anything for you, I would go, I would give my time, my resources, all that I am
 - But allow my son to be killed in your place
 - Sorry friends – I don't know
- And yet God did that willingly, God did that without reservation
 - And with that, I see how much I, you, we mean to the Lord
- And at times how little value I really give His love

Tonight when you look at the message of the cross, I want you to consider what your relationship with God is worth.

- And I want you to reevaluate in light of all it cost God to love you and welcome you in, how do you responds?

Do we take our relationship with God lightly?

- Have we gotten into just a religious routine?
 - Have we gotten ourselves into a rut?
 - Have we begun to take our relationship with God lightly?
- When I look at the cross, and I see what He went through, I see what it cost, and I begin to think...

How dare I see my time in His Word as mundane?

- How dare I look at devotions as some religious ritual
 - How dare I neglect entering into prayer to talk to God
 - How dare I take worship so lightly
- How dare I come to hear Bible studies, and constantly daydream
 - How dare I come to the table of communion and not remember the gift that Christ has given me

And I say this not to lay a guilt trip on you

- But to wake us up to reality of what it means to God that we are in a right relationship with Him
 - That is the message of the cross

The Message of the Christ

#1 – God hates sin

#2 – God keeps His promises

#3 – How valuable I am to Him

Now I ask you – is that foolishness to you? It is stumbling block for you? Or do you see it as the power of God?

- Because those are the only options
 - But we don't get that, it doesn't sink in
- We walk the fence, sometime our relationship with God we see it as foolish and not necessary, stumbling and then we see it as the power of God
 - But what is it church
 - How long will we falter between two opinions

If God is God, and if God really became a man, lived a sinless life and then died on a cross for you and me, being treated as if He lived my life and your life, so that God could treat you as if you lived His

- If that is real, and it is, what message should that preach to your heart
 - The message should be sin is terrible, just look at what it did to Jesus, God I don't want to tolerate and make excuses for my sin, I want it gone
 - The message of the cross is God keeps His promises, so if He has told you He will do something– the God you and I serve kept His word to punish sin even when that promise cost Him His son, do you think He won't keep His promise to you
- The message of the cross is I am, you are, we are, loved perfectly by almighty God
 - And therefore, we should be all in to worship
 - We should be all in to crying out in prayer
 - We should be all in to studying this book and letting it study us and change us from the inside out
 - We should be all in to church and being here and growing in Him with every worship set, every message and every interaction

When we were living in the desert my daughters cat, every night it was my job to let her in so and she will go upstairs and sleep in my daughter bed – but as I open the door, she always would stop half way in – oh I forgot that dog is in here – maybe I will stay outside, oh its windy – I don't know what is happening in her mind, maybe just how long with this human slave of mine hold this door open for me – but I always find myself saying – in our out???

But as frustrated as I could get with that cat - I look at my own heart and wonder when I will ever realize that I can't see the cross as foolishness or something I don't have time for one minute and then the power of God the next.

Where do you stand tonight?

- Our hearts can get so callused we don't take time to think about it
 - And the implications to our lives

The reason I think this happens is because to truly look at the cross is to some foolishness and to some an offense

- Paul said later in this chapter, that the preaching of the cross was foolishness to the gentiles and to the Jews, a stumbling block
 - To the gentile's foolishness – how could it be that easy, that simple
 - To the Jews – they were offended
 - Because they lived by the law, and the cross says they didn't cut it.

And that may be the reason many of us today, become hardened to it, calloused

- we don't want to hear the we needed help
 - especially us guys – we are macho, can do what ever it takes – the cross says you're a loser

As offensive as that might be

- if you have never given you heart to the Lord
 - take what He did on the cross for you
 - you can't do it yourself, but He wants to save you!

To the rest of us – we must see the cross, the need we have for a savior, except it and love it, cease the striving

- the cross is not an offensive to me, but sets me free.
 - No longer trying to earn God's love
 - But realizing that I already have it

That's not foolishness, that's glory

- more than that its power, it's the Greek word "dunamis" - **"Dunamis" = dynamite**

These truths are Dynamite for your Christian walk

How it is power??? – I will end with what we should consider as we come to the table of communion tonight – the message of the cross says...

God hates sin. – How is that power???

- And as I see what it does, how God sees it
 - I realize I can no longer mess around with sin
 - I need to radically deal with it.
 - Don't tolerate it – power!!!!

God keeps His word

- When I look at the cross, and see if God kept the most horrible promise (in its ramifications)
 - How much more is God going to keep those things He has said to you
- God will give you the desires of your heart as you delight in Him – that is power to me.

Finally, I see how valuable my relationship is with God

- That He paid it all for me
 - And so when Satan tells me I'm worthless
 - God doesn't care
- I can look at the circumstances of my life and realizes, even if my trials make it hard to see
 - I know He loves me
 - I know He wants the best for me
 - And that is power to my life!!!