

February 3, 2019

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

“The doctrine of the cross is the sun in the system of truth. It is seen by its own light, and throws light upon every other subject.”

~John Newton (1725-1807), Anglican clergyman and abolitionist

“It should encourage us to duty that Christ will not quench the smoking flax, but blow on it till it flames. Some are loath to do good because they feel their hearts rebelling, and duties turn out badly. We should not avoid good actions because of infirmities attending them. Christ looks more at the good in them which he means to cherish than the ill in them which he means to abolish.”

~Richard Sibbes (1577-1635), English theologian in *The Bruised Reed*

“It is the madness of this ‘word of the cross’ that compels us to take it seriously. No one can say that this was some pious invention, for the cross runs counter to all notions of piety. And no one can dismiss the message as mere self-promotion, for the early believers gained nothing from telling their story. There is something so absurd, so topsy-turvy about the Christian message that it gets under my skin. I am a Christian today because *it has the ring of truth in it.*”

~Vinoth Ramachandra, Sri Lankan writer and human rights advocate

“To be a follower of the Crucified Christ means, sooner or later, a personal encounter with the cross. And the cross always entails loss.”

~Elizabeth Elliot (1926-2015), Christian author, speaker and missionary

“The older I grow, the more I am drawn to preach much concerning the person, the atonement, the glory of the Savior, and the influence of the Holy Spirit. There are other truths, important in their places, but unless beheld through the medium of the cross, they have but a faint effect.”

~John Newton (1725-1807), Anglican clergyman and abolitionist

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## Worship through the Word

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**SERMON** – “Gospel-Centricity: The Gospel as the Center and Power for Everything”

– Pastor Don Willeman

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *1 Corinthians 1:17-31, 2:1-5 (NASB)*

### *1 Corinthians 1*

<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not

many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no man may boast before God. <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

### *1 Corinthians 2*

<sup>1</sup> And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.