

The Significance of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:17-21 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Introduction

1. The mistake we make

- 1.1 A once-off encounter?
- 1.2 Christians and the Cross
 - a) Daily
 - Jesus’ teaching (Luke 9:23-27)
 - Paul’s statement (Phil.3:18)
 - b) The Ordinances
 - Believer’s Baptism
 - Breaking of Bread

2. The Corinthian context

- 2.1 A troubled Church
Divisions; lawsuits; idolatry; immorality
- 2.2 The basic problem
A lack of understanding and insight into the message of the cross

The Significance of the Cross to the Sinner (Rom.5:6-11)

1. The death of Jesus

- 1.1 A Substitute for us
- 1.2 Three Classes of people
 - a) Righteous
 - b) Good
 - c) Sinners

2. The demonstration of God’s love

- 2.1 Jesus’ teaching – greatest love (John 15:13)
- 2.2 Our condition – enemies to friends

The Significance of the Cross to the Saint (Col.2:14-15)

1. Our sin and sinfulness

- 1.1 Our sin is removed
- 1.2 Our sinful nature crucified

2. Our sickness

- 2.1 By His wounds (Isa.53:5)
- 2.2 Apply: purchase and possession

3. Our Slavery

- 3.1 Sin brings slavery (John 8:34)
- 3.2 Legalism brings bondage (Gal 4:9)

4. Satan

- 4.1 His claims and condemnation
- 4.2 Paraded as defeated

The Significance of the Cross to the World (1 Cor. 1:17-21)

1. Their View

- 1.1 Foolish
- 1.2 Offensive

2. Our Message

- 2.1 The Gospel
- 2.2 The message of the Cross

Conclusion

- 1. He died for you**
- 2. Reach one more for Jesus**

Ron's Quote:

*“God has got no plan for your sinful nature
other than to crucify it –
to put it to death by the Spirit of God”*

