

TEXT: 1st Corinthians 1:18-25 Main vs. 18

All Scriptures are from the Amplified Bible – and the King James Version

- ¹⁸ For the story *and* message of the cross is sheer absurdity *and* folly to those who are perishing *and* on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the [manifestation of] the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written, I will baffle *and* render useless *and* destroy the learning of the learned *and* the philosophy of the philosophers and the cleverness of the clever *and* the discernment of the discerning; I will frustrate *and* nullify [them] *and* bring [them] to nothing.
- ²⁰ Where is the wise man (the philosopher)? Where is the scribe (the scholar)? Where is the investigator (the logician, the debater) of this present time *and* age? Has not God shown up the nonsense *and* the folly of this world's wisdom?
- ²¹ For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive *and* recognize *and* know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him).
- ²² For while Jews [demandingly] ask for signs *and* miracles and Greeks pursue philosophy *and* wisdom,
- ²³ We preach Christ (the Messiah) crucified, [preaching which] to the Jews is a scandal *and* an offensive stumbling block [that springs a snare or trap], and to the Gentiles it is absurd *and* utterly unphilosophical nonsense.
- ²⁴ But to those who are called, whether Jew or Greek (Gentile), Christ [is] the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ [This is] because the foolish thing [that has its source in] God is wiser than men, and the weak thing [that springs] from God is stronger than men. **Amplified Bible**

INTRO: THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS! IS IT REALLY NECESSARY IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?

The Standard Of Love Is Not What Humans Feel

But What God Has Revealed In Christ's Life And Death On The Cross.

Do we, as {educated} people, people of the 21st century, people who seemingly have all the answers to all of life's problems, people who live in the most technological age ever, really need the message concerning the Preaching of the Cross?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME??? WHERE WOULD HUMANITY BE WITHOUT IT???

The world says no; and rightly so for the world does not want to hear, nor can the world comprehend, nor do they think the Message of The Cross is necessary!

The World Will Tell You That The Cross And Its Message Is:

- 1) Antiquated, "like a Skeleton Key"
- 2) Outdated, "like the Model T"
- 3) Unrealistic, "like a Screen Door on a Submarine"
- 4) Unpractical, "like a Dot-Matrix Printer"
- 5) Obsolete, "like the Full-Service Gas Stations"

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However, if you want my humble opinion, I will tell you that “It Is Not”!

The World Will Tell You That The Cross And Its Message Is:

- 1) Cruel,
- 2) Sadistic,
- 3) Insensitive,
- 4) Uncalled for in this day and age, *and worst of all*
- 5) A bloody message!

A message that plays on the emotions of those who hear it and out of feelings of physical sorrow the hearer responds.

Beloved, I would tell you that The Message of The Cross is the **MOST** important message that you and I as human beings need, yea must hear and adhere to!

✝ **Without the Cross of Calvary, there would be NO MESSAGE!**

⊗ **Without the sacrificial death of our Lord, there would be NO SALVATION!**

☩ **Without the physical, bodily resurrection of our Lord, there would be NO HOPE for humanity!**

For It Is The Message Of The Cross That Brings Us:

1) The Compassionate Savior - Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

In [Psalm 17:8](#); [91:4](#); and [Isaiah 31:5](#), the image of a **hen** sheltering her **chicks** portrayed Yahweh's protection of Israel. By rejecting Jesus, Jerusalem rejected God's protection. The image implies Jesus' identity as Yahweh.

Psalm 17:8 “Keep *and* guard me as the pupil of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.”

Psalm 91:4 “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.”

Isaiah 31:5 “As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver *it; and* passing over he will preserve it.”

2) The Crying Savior - John 11:35

Jesus wept.

3) The Suffering Savior - Matthew 26:38; Matthew 27:29

Matthew 26:38 “Then He said to them, My soul is very sad *and* deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake *and* keep watch with Me.”

Jesus' **sorrow** resulted from His anticipation of His physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering, especially His alienation from His Father as He bore the sins of the world on the cross.

Matthew 27:29 “And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”

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With their mock royal **robe... crown**, and scepter, the soldiers ridiculed Jesus' messianic claims.

4) The Dying Savior - Luke 23:34; 23:46

³⁴Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

While expressing faith in God by reciting [Psalm 31:5](#), Jesus **breathed His last**. Jesus was placed on the cross at about 9:00 a.m. ([Mark 15:25](#)) and died after only six hours—an unusually short time. Crucifixion victims sometimes lingered for two or three days before death occurred.

Psalm 31:5 “Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”

Mark 15:25 “And it was the third hour (about nine o'clock in the morning) when they crucified Him.”

5) The Saving Savior - Luke 23:43

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

In the midst of this display of unbelief and mockery, the other criminal came to understand the difference between his own guilt and Jesus' innocence (**this man has done nothing wrong**).

He also realized that Jesus was the Messiah and asked to take part in His coming **kingdom**.

Jesus assured him that, after death, he would immediately be reunited with Him in **paradise** (eternal life beyond the grave; see [2nd Corinthians 12:4](#) - “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

6) The Risen Savior - Luke 24:5-7

⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

BODY: Now that the introduction is out of the way, please allow me to share with you this morning/tonight Five (5) P's of The Cross.

1. There Is The Place Of The Cross - Called Golgotha! - Matthew 27:33-34

³³ And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

³⁴ They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink.

Mark 15:22 “And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.”

Golgotha is Aramaic for **Skull Place**. The traditional site of the crucifixion is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, located outside the city walls ([Leviticus 24:14](#); [Numbers 15:35-36](#); [Hebrews 13:12](#)).

John 19:17 “And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:”

2. There Is The Price Of The Cross - Death!

- ✠ Crucifixion ALWAYS meant death!
- ✠ No one survived the sentence of Crucifixion!
- ✠ While not everyone that was sent to the cross was beaten, death was as certain as the sunrise!

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- † The two thieves that hung on either side of our Savior:
- † One railing on and cursing the Savior:
- † The other realizing his predicament, rebuking his friend, and asking for forgiveness.

3. There Is The Person Of The Cross - Jesus Christ The Son Of God!

- ✠ Jesus Christ, The only begotten of the Father.
- ✠ **John 3:16** “For God so greatly loved *and* dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.”
- ✠ **John 14:6** “Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.”

4. There Is The Preaching Of The Cross - Separation, Sanctification, Justification, And Some Day Glorification!

- † The Cross brought separation then even as it does today.
- † Just as it brought death to those who died as a result of crucifixion, so it brings death to those of us who accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

5- There Is The Prize Of The Cross - Salvation – Peace

- † The Savior's reply: "To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."
- † The Savior's Cry as He gave up the spirit to death: "It Is Finished."

SUMMARY: The Preaching of The Cross!

- > Just exactly where do you stand with it?
- > Are you ashamed of the Message that the Cross represents?
- > For the Person it represents?
- > For the price and purchase redeemed at the Cross?
- > Notice what the Apostle Paul said in **Romans 1:16:**

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is God's power working unto salvation [for deliverance from eternal death] to everyone who believes with a personal trust and a confident surrender and firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, “**Amplified Bible.**”

CONCLUSION: Do you have in your life all that the Message of the Cross has to offer you?

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If you are saved and there seems to be something missing in your life, won't you come to this old-fashioned altar and find that missing piece?

If you are here and you do not know Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior, then I invite you to come and let us introduce you to the Savior of the Message of The Cross.

Prayer and Invitation: