

## *“For The Word of the Cross is . . . the Power of God”*

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

### *Celebrating the Centrality of Christ in the Local Assembly*

For whatever reason, we still see our faith as an illusion with no substance and incapable of sustaining us in the midst of “real” life. My friends, this morning it is for us to be called back to the certainty and sureness of Scripture.

#### I. What is the Word of the Cross

What is the word of the cross and why is it folly to those who are perishing? Philippians 2:8 speaks of our Lord’s obedience “to the point of death, *even death on a cross.*” Hebrews 12:2 says He “*endured the cross, despising the shame.*” The cross was an instrument of destruction and death. It lined the victor’s path with visuals of conquest. There is nothing “pretty” about the cross. It spoke of only one thing . . . death. It extended no mercy, gave no quarter and asked for no favors. It is impartial as to who it kills and thinks not as to why it kills. It is the cross.

At the cross all pedigree, power, prestige, personality, possessions, and popularity are of no consequence. The cross cares not who you are or what you have done, it serves only one purpose and that it to put to death those who find themselves laid upon its surface.

There is no glory in the ignominious death on the cross . . . and then came Jesus.

This, then, is the word of the cross. “God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). For those who are perishing in their unbelief, it is folly. But for those who are being saved, it is the power of God. There is nothing more for us to do. He has done it all. The cross speaks of our spiritual ruin and His excessive resource.

How will we view the cross? The cross work was uniquely our Lord’s. Yet those who came to it are equally identified by it. It is the cross that made us what we are and it is the cross that shows us who we are. We are the fellowship of the crucified.

Let us not forget that this is the word of the cross and to those who are perishing it is folly.

But there is also resident power in the cross. What is the power of the cross?

#### II. What is the Power of the Cross

We live in a world that sees the Bible and Christian belief as a crutch for the weak minded.

*Continued on the other side...*

“The word of the cross is neither good advice to men nor a message about God’s power; it *is* God’s power.” (Gromacki, 1 Corinthians, 18)

- The cross has power to raise to life those who are dead  
The Bible calls this being **Born-again** (John 3:3, 7) or **Regenerated** (Titus 3:5)
- The cross has power to declare right those who are unacceptable before God  
The Bible calls this **Justification** (Romans 3:24, 5:1)
- The cross has power to make righteous those who are not righteous  
The Bible calls this **Imputation** (2 Cor. 5:21)
- The cross has power to cancel the debt of sin’s slaves  
The Bible calls this **Redemption** (1 Peter 1:18)
- The cross has power to make friends out of enemies  
The Bible calls this **Reconciliation** (Romans 5:10)
- The cross has power to remove the guilt of sin  
The Bible calls this **Forgiven** (Colossians 2:13)
- The cross has power to satisfy the wrath of God against sinners  
The Bible calls this **Propitiation** (Romans 8:1, 1 John 2:2)
- The cross has power to bring sinners into communion with the Godhead  
The Bible calls this being **In Fellowship** (1 Cor 1:9)
- The cross has power to make the disinherited recipients of all things  
The Bible calls this being **A joint-heir with Christ** (Romans 8:17)
- The cross has power to take the deficient and make them satisfied  
The Bible calls this being **Made complete in Christ** (Colossians 2:10)