

“Crucify Him, Crucify Him...”
John 19:13-19

Topic: Jesus, The Cross.

Aim: To show that for Paul and the early church, preaching Christ and Him crucified was their defining concept.

1. Every group that succeeds and grows needs a defining concept, a central unifying purpose statement that colors all that they do or are.
2. For the early church it had to be Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Most of us are familiar with the details of the crucifixion
3. In this lesson I want to center in on Paul’s statement that he determined to know only Jesus Christ and Him crucified in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

I. Why was that the case? Because the cross related to every aspect of their religious life!

A. It defined the church.

1. Matthew 16:13-27.
2. Compare Acts 20:28. Remember it is Christ’s church, Romans 16: 16.
3. This is seen when we consider how what Jesus did on the cross is related to the church in Ephesians 1 and 2.

B. It explained baptism.

1. Baptism was commanded by Jesus, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16.
2. Romans 6:1-7.

C. It explained and defined their lifestyle, Colossians 2:11-14, 3:1-5,12-17.

1. Their “new life” was because of Him and His cross.
2. It was in His image!

D. It defined their worship, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

E. It gave their preaching its power.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.
2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-5.
3. That is the power of God to salvation, Romans 1: 16-17.

F. It also defined and spelled out their mission in life.

1. 1 Corinthians 9: 16.
2. Matthew 28: 18-20.

II. What does it all mean for us today? What is the point?

A. The church needs to keep the cross as its focus.

1. Everything we do has relevance only as it leads us (or others) to or helps us to see Christ and Him crucified more clearly.
2. Without that we are just another organization without a justifiable purpose.

B. For me as an individual?

1. Jesus and Him crucified must be the center of my faith.
2. If it is so, we will be less likely to drift away because of real or perceived failures in our brethren.
3. It would also stir our evangelistic zeal!

1. Jesus Christ and Him Crucified – it must be the central, defining, unifying concept of our faith.

2. Have you in loving obedience appropriated that great sacrifice to your life?

Mike Greene, Elizabethtown church of Christ