

MAIN TRUTH

Message Outline

“The Cross and Christian Preaching” – Part 1
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Reminders for the church... **Why talk about preaching? It's getting the message out**

- The message of the cross is the resource of God's power.
(1 Corinthians 1:17-31; cf. Romans 1:16)
 - To convert those who receive it.
 - To condemn those who reject it.
- The preaching of the cross is the response of God's people. **(v. 21)**
(1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 21, 23)

Challenges for pastors and people...

1. Let's own the preaching event **as a community** of faith.
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:1-31)
 - Pray for it in advance. **1) not qualified intellectually to preach the Gospel**
 - Plan for it in your schedule. **2) not worthy to preach the Gospel**
 - Prepare for it in your heart. **3) many who could probably preach it better than me**
 - Participate in it every week. **4) it's only through power of Spirit in me that I'm able**
 - Process it when it's over. **5) God has called me to preach the Gospel**
 - Practice it in your life. **1 Cor. 1:27; v. 1 - 4**
2. Let's approach the preaching event as an act of worship.
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5; cf. Nehemiah 8:1-8; Psalms 56:4,10; 119:48; 130:5-7; 138:2; 1 Corinthians 1:29, 31)
Worship has become a synonym for music
 - God has chosen a foolish message of atonement—the cross.
 - God has chosen a foolish method to advance it—preaching.
 - God has chosen foolish men and women to announce it—us.**READ Nehemiah 8:1 - 8**

Why? So when He releases His power to transform lives, we can draw only one conclusion: "Only God could have done that!" (1 Cor. 1:31)

 - Bring your Bible so you can interact with God's voice.
 - Record your insights so you can reflect on God's voice.

Small Group Guide

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN PREACHING – PART 1

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. Jim Shaddix

April 21, 2013

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- Express your emotions when prompted by God's voice.
 - Still your spirit when overwhelmed by God's voice. **"Be still and know"**
3. Let's receive the message *from* God, not just *about* God.
Little distinction between God and His Word
(1 Corinthians 1:1; cf. Genesis 1:26-27; 3:22; Psalm 17:15; Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:1; 22:2,4)
- Expect the preaching of God's Word to re-create you, not merely rehabilitate you.
 - Expect the preaching of God's Word to make you godly, not just give you guidance.
 - Expect the preaching of God's Word to transform you, not just inform you. **v. 5**
- Things that are from God will always be about Him; some things can be about God but not necessarily be from Him – we must be able to distinguish between the two**
4. Let's resolve to magnify the message of the gospel and the cross of Christ *alone*.
(1 **Corinthians 2:2**; cf. Luke 9:23-24; 2 Corinthians 4:10; Philippians 3:8-11)
- Listen for the crucified Lord in every sermon.
 - Look for the crucified life in every sermon.

Message Summary

Continuing with our series on 1 Corinthians, this week's message is the first of two focusing on Christian preaching. The message of the cross is the resource of God's power, and it saves or condemns all who hear it. We should take ownership of the preaching event as God's people. The community of faith should be active participants in the preaching event and value it as an act of worship to God. All Christian preaching should exalt the gospel message above all else. As Christ-followers, we should look for the crucified Lord in every sermon and let that motivate us to model the crucified life before a lost and dying world.