

MAIN TRUTH

Message Outline

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

LAST WEEK: Convergence of the cross and community of faith, body of believers; and, the cross and preaching

Challenges for pastors and people...

The preaching event:

1. Let's own the preaching event as a community of faith. Let's be participants together during the preaching time – praying for it, planning for it, preparing for it, participating in it, processing it when it's over, and practicing it daily
2. Let's approach the preaching event as an act of worship. Worship isn't just about the music, but it's exalting the Lord and the Gospel in all aspects of worship

The message being preached:

3. Let's receive the message *from* God, not just *about* God. Messages from God are always about God, but sometimes messages about God are not always from God – need to be able to make the distinction
4. Let's resolve to magnify the message of the gospel alone.

TONIGHT: READ 1 Corinthians 2:1 - 5

Those receiving the message preached:

5. Let's anticipate the Spirit's power in our weaknesses.
(1 Corinthians 2:3-4; cf. 1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 31:30; Zechariah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 1:26-28; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 12:6-10)
 - Consider God's 'twisted' economy when you feel weak. Foolish to shame the wise, weak to shame the strong, low and despised to bring things that are to nothing
 - Celebrate the weaknesses of those who preach to you. Effectiveness of preaching measured by charisma, oratory, response – instead measure by genuineness, sincerity, humbleness, weakness
 - Come to the message of the cross with your weaknesses. Holding onto pride
6. Let's respond to the gospel message with obedient lives. (1 Corinthians 2:5)
 - Respond to God's Word with your obedience. Word of God always demands a response
 - Rely on God's power for your obedience. First, have to admit, "I can't do it" – trusting in God's power, not our own
7. Let's magnify the gospel's power, not the gifted preachers.
(1 Corinthians 2:5; cf. Acts 20:36-37; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 2:1; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7-8,17)

First, points regarding the preacher:

Small Group Guide

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN PREACHING - PART 2

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. Jim Shaddix

April 28, 2013

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- Resist the Christian 'rock star' culture. Seems more and more it's the persons leading the worship who are being worshipped instead of the God of worship; 1 Cor. 1:12 – Wigley illustration; Quote "The praise of man can be poison for the soul"
 - Celebrate the broader kingdom impact. Not the person God is using in making the impact – Ex. Billy Graham
 - Affirm faithful pastors of local churches. Ones on front-lines every single day shepherding community of people
 - Credit the message, not the messengers. Power of Gospel to save, not the power of the preacher; Turtle on fence post illustration – had help to get up there
- Second, points regarding teachers
- Value the biblical model of teaching teams. 1 Timothy 3 – overseers, deacons, teachers
 - Come for the teaching, not the teacher. It's not about who's doing the teaching but it's about what's being taught – the Word of God
 - Honor and love faithful teachers. Ask teachers of the Word to stand; READ Ephesians 4:11, 12

Message Summary

- God uses our weakness to exalt Himself
- We can come to the foot of His cross with our weakness
- As we hear preaching, we should respond with teachable hearts and obedient lives
- In the preaching event, we should always magnify the gospel's power rather than gifted preachers, for the gospel alone has the power to save