

“We Preach Christ...Crucified”

I Corinthians 1:23

SONG # 315 - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Introduction

- 1. There are many people who would offer an apology for speaking about the Lord and His death for the sins of the world.**
- 2. The apostle, Paul, was not one to make any excuses for telling others about the sacrifice that Jesus made. He said, “we preach Christ crucified”. This wasn’t spoken quietly in some dark corner in a one on one conversation. The message of the Christ being crucified was heralded abroad in the midst of the multitudes, and was never whispered with timidity.**
- 3. J.H. Jowett said, “we don’t timidly submit it for subdued discussion in the academic grove; we don’t offer it to the hands of exclusive circles---we preach it, we stand out like the town-crier in the public way, and we proclaim it to the common and indiscriminate crowd” Even today we offer no apologies and make no excuses for taking the time to remember the death of our Savior.**
- 4. This is exactly what the early church did. They went to the public arenas and with boldness proclaimed a crucified Christ and believed with all of their heart that their message would lead to the salvation of many souls.**
- 5. How do you feel about the message of the crucified Christ right now? In your mind, is the importance to be placed on the fact that there was a crucifixion or is the real significance to be found in the truth that Jesus, the Son of God was the sufferer of the crucifixion? Why should anyone go around preaching about a crucifixion or for that matter, take a block of time in an assembly like this to remember such an event?**

I. “We Preach Christ...” *SONG # 318 - O Sacred Head*

A. The message that we preach is primarily about Jesus, the Christ.

- 1. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:5, that, “we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.” And why shouldn’t we, because Jesus is Lord! Amen!**
- 2. The main subject of the crucifixion is not the cross, but it is the Christ.**
- 3. Paul understood that it wasn’t our changed lives that would show the significance of the cross of Christ. It isn’t our transformed lives that set the cross as the moral and spiritual standard, but it is the Christ upon the cross that creates our transformed lives as a witness that Jesus is the moral and spiritual standard for the entire world.**

B. The gospel (good news) about Jesus is the message that must be preached

- 1. When we accept the call of the gospel and live it out in our lives, we make the reality of Jesus and His death concrete in local places. Yet it must be understood that our lives don't make sense of the gospel, but the gospel makes sense of our lives.**
- 2. It is the Christ that we speak of, sing about, pray and thank the Father for, while living in His shining example of obedience and sacrifice for righteousness sake (See I Cor. 15:1-4)**
- 3. Jim McGuiggan said it best when he said, "If we hide him (Christ Jesus) behind our fine lives and gentle ways and lovely marriages and families we are obscuring the gospel by which the world and we are saved" The crucified Christ must be publicly proclaimed. Paul even wrote of the Lord's Supper, that when we partake of it, we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (I Cor. 11:26).**

II. "We Preach Christ...Crucified" SONG # 329 - *What A Savior (verses 1&2 only)*

A. The message of the crucifixion is secondary to the Holy One being crucified

- 1. We don't preach the crucifixion of Christ, we preach Christ crucified. Do you see the difference? There were many crucifixions that took place in Jerusalem. It was the Divine sacrifice that makes the crucifixion of Jesus of great importance.**
- 2. It has been said, "It isn't the crucifixion that gives glory to the Christ, but Christ that gives meaning and glory to the crucifixion. It isn't the bare act of dying we proclaim but the person who accomplished the dying. It isn't the fact that a death transpired that we preach but the meaning and purpose and effects of that act of dying." Amen.**
- 3. But let us remember that it is "Christ crucified" that we do preach. Never forget though, that John 10:18 teaches us that the life of Jesus was not forcefully taken away from Him, but was freely offered out of love for us. That passage in the gospel of John shows Jesus speaking of His life and saying, "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative..."**

B. The crucifixion was not just a way of dying; it was a kind of dying.

- 1. For Jesus to be crucified was for Him to be handled violently by the hands of transgressors. It was mankind devising a wicked plan to remove the Son of God from the earth which revealed and exposed the horribleness of the sin that permeates this world. This was not a death of natural cause, but a death by supernatural love.**
- 2. His death in obedience to the will of the Father for redeeming the world from sin, led to the victory over Satan. The death of Jesus was not just something that He and His Father determined would be an event in history, but was a clear and detrimental blow to the satanic realms.**

3. When you read Revelation 12:10-11 you find the true meaning of the crucified Christ:
 “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb...”
4. Here you learn that we did not overcome Satan by the pitying love of Jesus, His warm affection and compassion, not by His tolerance and bravery, not by His sweet words and truthful teaching, but by His blood. And that is the awesome purpose of the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
5. So the death of Christ is the initial vision of God’s judgment against sin and all unrighteousness. Often times, when talking about the crucifixion, we say that Jesus’ death was Him taking what we deserved. In reality, the crucifixion of Jesus is not the Son of God getting what we deserved, but was the Father in heaven getting what He deserved. The obedience of Jesus is the example of what every human should have been offering to their heavenly Father from the beginning of time. Finally and completely a human gave to God, as an obedient child, what the Holy Father was worthy of. That is how we were redeemed.

Conclusion *SONG # 349 - Ten Thousand Angels (Chorus after last verse)*

1. The Bible tells us that Jesus’ death was tasted for every man (Heb. 2:9). Hopefully we can better understand this truth after our short study together today.
2. Some people say we make much of the death of Jesus on the cross? How could we do otherwise? Can you think of anything more important than that one event alone?
3. People say, “but you speak of the glory of the death of Jesus, the power of the blood of His cross, the love behind the sacrifice made and the heroism of the Lord who is now the King of Kings.” To some the crucifixion was just an ordinary death...and to be honest...it was. But as I said earlier, it was this cheap and ordinary death of Jesus that the church proclaimed because even though it was a common death among men, it was the most momentous event in the history of mankind. This is because the Christ being crucified led to the redemption of the world from sin. Without that one event we would all be lost for eternity.
4. It makes sense then as we gather here on the first day of the week that we would follow the instructions of the Lord when He instituted the supper that we will now share with one another. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me” (I Cor. 11:24). We now take a few moments to reflect upon all that Jesus means to us as we share in the bread that is emblematic of His body and the fruit of the vine that symbolizes the blood that washes away our sins. Let us thank the Lord for His great sacrifice on the cross.

Special thanks goes to Jim McGuiggan and his book, "Dragon Slayer" for the majority of the deeper thoughts on the crucifixion in this short lesson.