

## **'We preach Christ Crucified'** **1 Cor 1v17-31**

In this passage Paul writes about the preaching of the cross. Jews saw it as a stumbling block. – was the Roman form of execution (Cicero 'the cross, it speaks of that which is so shameful, so horrible, it should never be mentioned in polite society') and reminds them of Deut. 21v23. The Greeks saw it as foolishness. No philosophy of the world would or could have conceived or reckoned on the need for a cross. But Paul knew the power of the word of the cross to change men's lives. 'We preach Christ crucified'. Some can say 'We preach'. But what is their message? Some 'we preach Christ' But as an example? But for Paul it is 'we preach Christ crucified'. This is our calling and this is the way God ordained. 'Christ' is the theme but 'crucified'.

But what does it mean to preach Christ Crucified? What does it involve? What is the message of Christ crucified?

### **1 Come to the tabernacle. See the sacrifices.**

Look at the sacrifices being offered. Eph. 5v2; Heb.10v12.

The worshipper deserves death. God graciously allowed him to offer a spotless substitute. He would lay his hand on the head of the sacrifice and by this state 'This is for me'. God could continue among his people until Christ came to offer the prop. sac. Rom. 3v25-26.

Rom. 8v3, the law could not justify but condemn. God sent his son for 'a sin offering' and dealt with sin in the flesh of Christ.

### **2 Go to the Slave market. See the ransom being paid.**

In the slave market slaves could be bought or ransomed. Bought for a new master or to be set free.

Remember Mark 10v45 1 Tim. 2v5-6. He died to pay the price. To redeem us or deliver us – from the guilt, penalty, power and presence of sin.

Another word to buy or redeem us means to purchase. 1 Cor. 6v20; Rev. 5v9 – purchased to belong to God. Do we recognise his ownership of us? Submit?

### **3 Sit in the Law Court. See the guilty acquitted/justified.**

Men were condemned by the law, Rom. 3v20. Law show us our sin. But Rom. 3v24; 5v9. In the dock, condemned, but how can we be justified? 2 Cor.5v21. Sin transferred to Christ and we receive a new standing as his righteousness is accounted to us.

### **4. Stand beside two parties as they form a Covenant.**

Wedding ceremony with two couples make a solemn pledge to each other; or an international agreement. In the bible God is the one who initiates the covenant. The parties are not equal but in his grace he initiates it through the death of Christ. See 1 Cor. 11v25. By the blood of the covenant he brings us into the circle of God's acceptance. Jer. 31v31-34 fulfilled. Born again he puts his law into our minds and hearts. New relationship, knowing God, forgiven.

### **5 Consider Two Hostile Enemies who need to be Reconciled.**

God has always loved us but he has not always been reconciled to us – wrath Rom. 1v18. But see Rom. 5v10; 2 Cor. 5v20 'be reconciled' by what Christ has done. This blessing is offered – in fact God beseeches...