

Sermon Quotes
June 10, 2007
Living In The Good Of The Gospel
Paul- A Gospel Centered Life

The cross was the centerpiece of Paul's theology. Paul simply refused to be pulled away from the gospel. The cross wasn't merely one of Paul's messages; it was *the* message. He taught about other things as well, but whatever he taught was always derived from, and related to, the foundational reality that *Jesus Christ died so that sinners would be reconciled to God...*In every epistle, Paul kept the atoning death and resurrection at the center—just as he did in his personal preaching and teaching...For Paul, the gospel—this 'word of the cross'— was no cold theological formula.”

—CJ Mahaney

Galatians 1:3-5 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 1:2-6 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 ... we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 1:15-16

So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

“For Christ did not send me to baptize but **to preach the gospel**, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (18) For **the word (or message) of the cross** is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. (2) **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.** (3) And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, (4) and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, (5) that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Now I would **remind you, brothers, of the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you **as of first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Paul refused to overlook or ignore all that God had done for him in the cross. He knew that real life meant Christ living out His life within him. Paul would never try to live on his own again, in his own strength or by his own legalistic righteousness, because that would mean that “Christ died in vain.” If you don’t want the cross to be emptied of its power in your life; if you want everything God intends you to be because of the cross, then let ALL that God has accomplished in the cross have full effect in your life. Don’t set aside what God has done and try to live apart from full dependence on the living Christ.

Henry Blackaby

Because of the cross, Paul’s relationship to the world around him was one of being “crucified.” He knew that the world’s attractions were only a mirage; nothing the world claims to offer is real. This world and its ways held no appeal for Paul because he was crucified to it. He could see more than the world sees, and what he saw was the glory of the cross of Jesus Christ and the eternal life and hope it brings.

Henry Blackaby

There is a sinful forgetting of past sins and past mercies, which ought to be remembered for the exercise of constant repentance and thankfulness to God. But this is not what Paul is suggesting. Paul forgot the things which were behind so as not to be content with present measures of grace: he was still for having more and more. So he reaches forth, stretches himself forward, bearing towards his point: it is expressive of a vehement concern that we do the same.

Matthew Henry

Take time to ask God to open your mind and heart to the reality of what Paul kept talking about: "I have been crucified with Christ"... "I boast only in the cross of Christ"... "I know only Christ and Him crucified"... "the message of the cross is the power of God." Then we must ask ourselves some crucial questions: How is the cross affecting my life? Is my life centered on the cross? Is that the reality – not just in my theology, but in my experience?

Blackaby

Am I experiencing the life of the living Lord? Or does the world still have priority in shaping how I spend my time, energy, thoughts, and all that I have? Am I in any way quenching and resisting his activity in my life, setting aside the grace of God, so that the cross of Christ is made of no effect in me? May God so work in your heart that toward all these dangers you come to respond as Paul did: "God Forbid!"

Henry Blackaby