

Nothing But Christ and Him Crucified (1 Cor 2:2)

- Martin Luther: *No theology is genuinely Christian which does not arise from our focus in the cross*
- Some Christians will dismiss preaching on the cross as simplistic
- We can easily take a particular doctrine too far, but never so with the Cross
- Paul determined he would not seek to add anything to the preaching of the cross
- Paul knew that to seek to glamorize the Gospel was the highest form of arrogance
- The Corinthians wanted a carnal kind of spirituality, contrary to the cross
- All other religion & spirituality apart from the cross spelled death & destruction

I. A Divine Determination

- Paul was one of the most driven & focused men in the New Testament (Acts 8:1)
- Paul wants to know the power of God and that power is found in the cross
- Paul knew that the message of the cross would embarrass & he suffered for it
- As a result of single minded focus, Paul knew the power of Christ in his preaching
- Therefore he refused to engage in shameful tactics & strip the cross of its power
- Was Paul impoverished because of his focus? No, God used him mightily
- Paul wrote of the power of God in His crucified Son (1 Cor 1:30; 1 Pet 3:15-16)

II. Preaching Christ in a Crucified Way

- Preachers can ride their hobby horses & be the poorer for it, not so with the Cross
- Spurgeon: Paul's hobby horse is the kind one can ride without injuring one's self
- Paul's focus on the Cross is the heart of God's forgiveness to lost sinners
- In Christ is hidden all wisdom of God, He is the scope & center of all revelation
- Christ alone for Paul, in all His deity but also crucified, in the humiliation of His passion, and the advantages of His offices. No other truth deals with man's heart
- Paul knew that a view of Christ crucified kills pride, idolatry dead in its tracks
- What is man that you are mindful of him? David asks, the Cross answers: He is nothing of himself, he is everything for God loves Him & Christ died for him
- The Cross reminds us that salvation is about God and not about us.
- The crucified Christ leads away from man-centeredness to God-centeredness
- When we see Christ crucified, how can we, under a sense of His dying groans, not cherish that for which He died.