

Evotional

Date: 7th October 2007 (pm).

Speaker: Neil Durling.

Message title: “The cross in our culture.”



Bible passage: 1 Corinthians 1:18:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The message in brief:

Paul is writing to the Christians in Corinth, a cosmopolitan city. He encourages them to get back to basics; the message of the cross.

Foolishness to those who are perishing:

He comments that this message is foolishness (nonsense) to those who are perishing (this word can mean “to lose what is of value” which in Paul’s view is a relationship with God).

The power of God to those who are being saved:

Paul says “us” when he talks about those who are being saved. Just pause a moment... People like Paul; a disturber and disrupter of the faith who condoned imprisonment and death. Those who are saved are not “perfect” people but they are saved nevertheless (saved means “delivered/set free” and in the Old Testament meant “to be brought into a spacious environment”).

Paul says that this message is power (*dunamis* from which we get the English word “dynamite”). One would think that the opposite of foolishness is wisdom but Paul says that it is power. The message of the cross isn’t theoretical or merely intellectual; it has power to change lives.

What is the message of the cross?

Message comes from the Greek word *logos* and means “word” or “intelligent communication” and “cross” comes from the Greek word *skandalon* and means “scandal”. So what is the intelligent communication of this scandal?

There are many aspects of it and the one I focus on here is adoption: If we believe that Jesus’ death is true we are saved and have become part of God’s family.

I wonder if some people think it is foolishness and cannot believe it because they are ashamed of who they are and struggle to believe that God loves and chooses them?

Question:

Have I experienced the power of the adopting love of God?

A prayer:

Father God,

Thank you for the cross that has opened up the way for me to be a part of your family. Amen.