

The great need for the church today is not new and better ideas or more church growth schemes or more money. But rather, The great need for the Church to rediscover the old paths. Quote. Namely patterning ourselves after the church in Acts 2:42 quote. The Church which Christ built cannot fail it originated in the mind of God and was founded by Christ himself of which he is the head. The promises remain to this very day for those who would take hold of them.

While there is a demand for learned men and scholarship, don't get me wrong we need these men

The great and pressing need is planes of speech and obedience to the truth that we already know.

We must get a grasp of Eternity in order to see the world the way God sees it, to understand that "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." We must comprehend the temporal nature of this life. That we are a vapor here today and gone tomorrow and in a blink of an eye we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Some will be cast off into everlasting hell and others to Everlasting glory in heaven in the presence of God.

And we must make it our great ambition to lift up Christ in the preaching of the Cross the foundation of all Christian Doctrine!

And just for the record I do not believe that the challenges with the church faces today are any worse than that on the first century.

David and Goliath

It is my desire this morning to preach on the Cross of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:2

Disclaimer The Preaching of the Cross is offensive to men **John 1:deeds are evil**

While the preaching of the Cross is offence to men it brings great honor to God and to those being saved it most precious.

There is a great error that many make regarding the gospel. They consider it an Elementary teaching which after being heard once it's time to move on to bigger and better things. Or they might think we learned those basic truths in Sunday school as children it's now time for deeper Christian truths.

There is nothing further from the truth and more dangerous to the church. The Cross of Christ is the highest and most lofty thought that has ever entered into the mind of man. It is the greatest demonstration of love that has ever been seen.

It has been the great passion, and singular obsession of God's holy Saints of old! (Paul)

Consider this:

The entire Old Testament is pointing to the Cross and the entire New Testament is founded upon the blessings that were obtained through it!

And I believe that it will be a cause for worship throughout all eternity thanking God for his infinite love which He displayed towards wretched sinners by giving his one and only son to die in our place.

We learn something very interesting from the book of Romans which presents the truth of God in a systematic manner. Which simply means that truth is presented in order and it builds upon itself.

Paul labors with all of his strength to condemn the entire world of sin in the first three chapters of Romans in order to make the radical need for a savior abundantly clear.

It is impossible to understand the need for a savior, if what we are being saved from is not clearly presented, for example if I was to walk down Main Street this afternoon and declare to men that Christ will save you if you come to Him. Their response would likely be save me from what? I'm a good person I've got a wonderful life and I don't need a savior thanks but no thanks!

What if I was holding up a life vest right now in this room, you would think to yourself so what who cares.

But consider this if you were in the ocean and could not swim and sharks were swimming around you that would change the situation drastically!

In the same way we must explain the radical and desperate need for a savior!

The message of the Cross must begin with God and His Holiness and perfection and then move forward to man and his Fallen State and then consider God's attitude towards sin.

If we are to appreciate Jesus' sacrifice and give it proper honor we must begin with the foundational truths and then move forward in order as the Bible presents itself.

We cannot understand what amazing grace is without understanding wrath and judgment. Likewise we may have no understanding of peace without first understanding the horrors of War.

When Paul said Grace and peace to you I think his heart was warmed with emotion because he knew the price that was played in order to have it.

I will not cheapen the Cross of Christ for while it is offensive to man it brings great honor to God.

Most preachers today would like to skip the foundational truths of God and His attributes and the fallen sinful state of man.

To their loss they have rejected God's word and should not expect Him to be a part of their ministry

John 16:8

Again if we do not love men enough to tell them of their spiritual sickness we can know for certain the Holy Spirit will not bless our preaching!

***Consider a physician who has a patient with a terminal illness and decides to conceal this information because he is afraid that it will ruin this person's day. While it may ruin the patient's day the knowledge of the illness would give opportunity to seek a life-saving cure. The very Act of concealing this information is immoral. This doctor should lose his practice on grounds of ethical violations. This begs the question what should happen to preachers who refuse to tell men about their Soul sickness!***

Let us then begin with God

God is a God of moral perfection and Excellence.....

God is Holy: Exodus 3:5-6, 1 Samuel 2:2

He is righteous: Ps 145:17

He is a just Judge: Gen 18:25, 1 Peter 1:17

This Great God of moral perfection creates the entire world out of nothing and commands the created order to submit to his government and His Lordship....sun moon stars planets Waters Mountains

And then he comes to man the crown of his creation and gives him good Commandments to obey and follow

And as we read in Genesis 3 Adam rebelled and sinned against God. Quote gen

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

And the entire world was subjected to the curse of sin.

We simply have no idea what it means to sin against God.

Isaiah I am a man of unclean lips..... 6:5 after encountering God

[5](#)“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

And just as a pig doesn't mind being dirty. We might think what the big deal with sin why is it so bad?

But notice the Bible tells us that it only took one sin, to throw the entire world into its fallen state!

How many countless times have we sinned, and how do we expect to escape the justice of the Judge of all the Earth.

It is one thing to sin against man of like flesh and blood but it is an entirely different thing to sin against an eternal infinite being.

This is why the Bible teaches that the consequences of us sinning against this great king are eternal and rightly so.

We are not entitled to grace, God does not owe us anything, the only thing we are entitled to is judgment.

God would have been perfectly just if at that very moment he had sent Adam straight to hell. For the Angels fell and no savior was sent to them!

Suffering is one of the biggest if not the biggest barrier for ... Bart Ermon

I hear it often said by atheists that how could a good and loving God allow suffering and so many bad things to happen in the world.

But this world view completely overlooks the sin problem. As if we are entitled to Grace

If we understand what the Bible teaches we should ask the complete opposite question why is there anything good in the world at all.

The Bible teaches us that God “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust” **Matt 5:45** and is merciful towards the wicked and this has been called common Grace. Why is there anything beautiful and pleasing in this fallen world. Babies flowers joy.....

After establishing God’s Holiness and his option of sin

The question is raised how can God pardon the wicked of their sins?

Muslims believe oh its simple God can just forgive man because.... It’s not that simple

The Bible speaks of God as being a just judge and also of his fierce hatred of sin. Ps 7 God cannot simply violate one of his attributes or be inconsistent with his nature.

Ex. He cannot lie nor is he capable of evil. In the very same way God cannot pardon the debt of sin without full payment.

Proverbs 17:15 helps to reveal this problem

Abomination

Because God is a Just judge.

Let me make this point more clear using a human argument Human example.

Let’s say a terrorist commits a horrific act and kills a great number of people. After the attack he is captured and stands trial before a judge. The judge then comes to a verdict and

says that because I am a loving judge I am going to let him go free. What would your response be? It should be fury and outrage you would declare that the judge is far more wicked and vile than the criminal for letting him loose to terrorize more people. A just judge must punish wrongdoing.

The sins which we have committed against God are infinitely worse than any sins committed against our fellow man and his and an earthly court of law.

*David understood this Ps 51*

Therefore the Lord the judge of all the Earth must punish us according to our works. We have broken his perfect and good law and therefore must answer to him!

How is God Just and the Justifier of the wicked. Divine Dilemma

We get hints of how God is ultimately going to redeem and save his people from their sins in the old covenant through the sacrificial system.

The concept of the sacrificial system is that the animal becomes a substitute and dies in the place of the guilty worshiper.

Teaching us that God demands justice or payment for sins committed.

Yet the blood of bulls and goats were not able to properly deal with sins **Hebrews 10:4** but yet they were a shadow of what God had purposed to come in the future at a later date.

Romans 3:25 in his **forbearance** he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

All this was pointing to when God would reveal his glorious plan to redeem His people from their slavery to sin by sending His Son to die in their place.

1 Peter 1:20 **The Bible tells us that this great Plan of Salvation originated in the mind of God before the very foundation of the world**

Fullness of time (Gal 4:4) It also tells us that God sent him in the fullness of time at the very right moment in history.

While the prophets of old prophesied about Christ and longed to see his day. They could not fully understand the grace which was going to be given through Jesus's sacrifice. No Eye has seen

**There are many clues in Scripture which make the sacrifice of Christ more meaning full for the believer.**

John the Baptist John 1:29 refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world

Jesus in Luke 21 further explains the meaning and significance of his title the Lamb of God.

He fulfills and reinstitutes the Passover claiming that he is now going to lay down his life as and sacrifice.

Paul NT 1 Cor 5:7 Jesus our Passover lamb

The Passover lamb died in the place of the first born son and satisfied the wrath of God!

And surely Christ death must do the same for us!

Luke 22:39-46, Mark 14:32

What was in the cup *Ps 116:13*, Isa 51:17, Ezek 23:33

Who was or what was Jesus afraid of in the garden of gethsemane

Prof is that during the first century after the resection countless martyrs went through similar torcher at the hands of wicked men but yet went joyfully and praising God. The question is, are they braver than the founder of their Religion.

Gen 22

**Most of us are familiar with the story of God calling Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son Isaac. Will you remember that cried at the very last moment God intervenes and tells Abraham to put knife. There is a great sense of relief and we think to ourselves what a nice ending. The only problem is this is not the ending it is only the intermission. The story picks up again with God offering his one and only son on Calvary and this time there is no mercy. This time there was no command to stop the knife.**

Is 53

Gal 3:13-14 He became a curse

2 Cor 5:21 became sin

Deut 32:35

Oh! What a savior what grace

And of this savior the Bible says the Bible says that he died and was buried and rose again the third day.

Blessing obtained

What type of people ought we to be, knowing that Jesus has died for us. Should we continue in sin should we continue to live for ourselves or should we not rather live for God.....

He first loved us and we are going to lay down our lives for others.

Should we not desire to tell those around us of the love which God displayed in Jesus. Our family friends co-workers city nation world.

This is the Love that concors the world.

And of this savior the Bible says the Bible says that he died and was buried and rose again the third day.

On the day of Pentecost in acts 2 Peter preached the first gospel sermon. Upon hearing it those who were lessoning cried out to him what must we do to be saved, and peter responded with the following words.

Acts 2:48

**36**Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

**37**Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38**And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40**And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

**41**So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

If all have fallen short of the glory of God How is it that God forgives them?

The great need for the Church today is not new and better ideas or more church growth schemes, but rather a return to the old paths which are given to us in the Bible. (Jer 6:16). (Acts 2:42) We must make it our great ambition to lift up Christ in the preaching of the Cross, the foundation of all Christian Doctrine! (Rom. 3:23-27)(1 Cor 2:2,15:1-4) God is Holy (Is. 6:3)(Habakkuk 1:13). Man is sinful (Gen 6:5)(Rom 3:10-18). God is just and is a righteous Judge. (Gen 18:25)(Ps75:7) How can God be "Just and the justifier"? ( Rom 3:25)(Pr 17:15) Jesus was our substitute, propitiation, and Passover Lamb. (1 Cor 5:7)