

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3

Richard Niebuhr once described the message of liberal Christianity as “*A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.*” In other words, for them the cross is seen as unnecessary since all we must do is follow Jesus’ ‘example.’

Avoiding the cross of Christ has been the aim of a many people down through the years. Why? Because, as Paul says in 1 Cor 1:18, the preaching of the cross is “*foolishness to those who are perishing.*” In fact, the early church was constantly under pressure to minimize this idea of a cross – this scandal that the “Savior of the world” had died in such a humiliating way. It was for many an embarrassment to hear that Jesus was executed as a common criminal.

Such embarrassment about the cross continues to this day in the false church. Oh, they still speak about a cross in vague, sentimental terms as they talk about Jesus’ example of sacrificial love. Yet there’s hardly a word about the blood that was shed as an atoning sacrifice to satisfy the wrath of a holy God! In fact, the very idea that God in His holiness could only be appeased by the blood of His Son, or that it was He who sent His Son to die in our place has been characterized recently by some as a “*theology of divine child abuse*”

And yet Paul says 1 Cor 1:23-24 “*we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*”

This morning I hope to talk to you about “*The Unavoidable Cross,*” the fact that the cross of Christ – that blood-soaked instrument of His death in our place – is central, not only to what Jesus came to do, but also to our very lives and to the message we must preach as well.

May We glory In His Cross

Pastor Scott