

THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS

Text: I Corinthians 1:18,19,23

Key Word: Offence

Key Thought: The Thought of a Suffering Saviour is still an Offence to our Modern Thinking

“ . . . there has never been anything which has caused more disturbance in the world than the Christian religion. It is not a sword, and yet it has brought war into the world; it is not a fire, and yet it has consumed many old institutions, and has burned much that men thought would last for ever; it is the gospel of peace, and yet it has parted the dearest friends, and caused direst feuds and confusions everywhere. Though in itself it is all gentleness, yet it seems as if the standard of the dove were the standard of battle, and as if raising up the peaceful cross had been the signal for war, like the blood-red fiery cross, which of old they passed through Scotland, to summon the clans to battle. **Strange, yet strangely true is it, that the cross of Christ has always been an offence, and that it has provoked the fiercest battles and the sternest strifes which men have ever had with their fellow-men.**”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Vol 44”, Oct 30, 1856

“The cross, it speaks of that which is so shameful, so horrible that it should not be mentioned in polite society.”

Marcus Tullius Cicero

was a Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar, philosopher and an academic sceptic

*** Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said that when he first came to this country, a lady came up to him and said, “*Dr. Morgan, the cross is offensive to me. I don’t like to hear a preacher talk about it because it is ugly and it is unsightly, and I don’t like to hear that sort of thing.*”

Dr. Morgan, in his characteristic manner said, “*Madam, I thoroughly agree with you. It is an offense. It is an ugly thing. But the only ugliness in that cross is your sins and my sins.*” ***

To Understand “Good Friday” We must Ask Some Vital Questions

I. HOW COULD A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER ALLOW IT?

II. HOW COULD A NATION ENDORSE IT?

III. HOW COULD IT BRING ABOUT SUCH WIDESPREAD DELIVERANCE?

I. HOW COULD A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER ALLOW IT?

The Bible not only describes God as a loving God but also that HE IS LOVE. True love is not possible without Him. He clearly portrays what a balanced and true love is all about. True love can only be passed on by those who have accepted the love and forgiveness of God in their heart. So how could a loving God allow His Only Begotten Son to die in such a pain manner even though Jesus was sinless and not guilty of ANY crime? Perhaps we don't understand what true love really is according to the Scriptures!

Much of the teaching in the world and now in our churches is based upon a false understanding of the word "love" as clearly defined in the scriptures. Many people believe that there is no room for punishment when we love someone. That is why it is so hard for our feeble minds to understand how our loving heavenly Father could allow His one and Only Son to be crucified. Attorney generals, judges and lawyers continue to display this false belief by supporting ridiculous sentences - punishing the good instead of those who are clearly committing crimes. That is why there are an increasing number of families that are raising little devils that grow to be big devils. Their offspring have no fear of consequences for their actions.

"When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.

12. Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him.

13. Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them"

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13

Christ didn't die on a pretty white cross. He died on an ugly tree in the shape of a cross to prove His authentic love for the world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery . . .

6. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Galatians 5:1,6

I. HOW COULD A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER ALLOW IT? (Contd.)

It is vital to understand that there is a high cost for sin. Only Jesus as the Sinless sacrifice could pay the penalty for sin. The unending gift of love required the maximum payment for all our sins. Every type of sin had to be paid in full. Everything including our thoughts all the way to murder had to be dealt with Once and For All.

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 3:23

If there was another way, God would have done it. There is no other way! Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father except through Him. His precious blood paved the ONLY road to heaven. Someone had to pay the punishment for sin. It was ordained BEFORE the foundations of the world were established. **It wasn't a reaction - it was a pre-action! It wasn't a last minute thought. It was God's eternal plan.**

That is why the New Jerusalem is described with having 12 gates with 12 angels on guard and each gate given a name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The apostle John also saw a great high wall with 12 foundations made of precious stones with one of the names of the 12 apostles on them. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life can enter in. Nothing and no one who is impure can enter in. Heaven can't be heaven if the smallest sin is allowed.

II. HOW COULD A NATION ENDORSE IT?

Crowds gathered along the Via Dolorosa to watch Jesus carry His cross to Golgotha. It was a straight and narrow pathway that He walked bearing His cross. Many mocked him while a few others wept. **Lukewarm Christians have no problem with Jesus bearing their cross.** There are 42 Bible verses that tell us TO BEAR OUR CROSS.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

Matthew 16:24,25

The reason the crowd endorsed it was because **they were spectators. They weren't disciples of Christ they were followers.** They had no problem as long as Jesus did ALL the dying. They wanted the benefits with no personal burdens. Anyone today who expects Jesus to do all the heavy burdening are opposing the Scriptures. They are twice a child of hell. They will go to the grave but refuse to die and be buried with Christ, Their water baptism is meaningless.

II. HOW COULD A NATION ENDORSE IT? (Contd.)

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

Galatians 2:20

“While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

20. But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked.

*They all answered, “**Crucify him!**”*

*23. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “**Crucify him!**”*

Matthew 27:19-23

It’s the same evil spirits controlling ungodly men and women throughout the world today. Destroy those that do good and set the guilty free. These kinds of nations (including ours) have no right to call themselves a Christian nation. The cross of Jesus is an offence to an unrepentant heart. They want our Bibles burned and churches that continue to preach the gospel permanently closed down because they don’t like it when their evil lives are exposed. Truth cannot be annihilated by national leaders. I know I’m right when evil regimes hate what I stand for. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the Church as Martyn Luther once proclaimed.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

19. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

John 15:18,19

Hate finds good breeding grounds in wicked nations.

III. HOW COULD IT BRING ABOUT SUCH WIDESPREAD DELIVERANCE?

The reason I love Sharon's cooking is not because she gives these recipes names I can't pronounce or have no idea of what she is talking about. I'm improving (I now know mousse is not an animal) but I still have no idea what the competitive chefs are talking about when they present their award winning plates.

The reason the gospel has brought about such widespread deliverance is because it is not complicated. It's not what people don't know in the Bible that bothers them. **The only minds it cannot penetrate are closed minds.** The only heart it doesn't affect is a **hardened heart.** The purpose of the gospel is to set people free. **It is only those who are bound by their sin that feel the gospel is taking away their freedom of choice.** I know it doesn't take away my freedom.

"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.

*19. For it is written: **"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate . . .***

25. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

I Corinthians 1:18,19,25

I also know it lifts the burden of what we owe because of our ungodly nature.

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

14. having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

15. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Colossians 2:13-15

Deliverance in itself is not freedom, It is the opportunity to pursue freedom. What we do with what God has freely given to us is our choice. Make good use of the opportunity.

C:\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.23\Special Days (Good Friday)\I Corinthians 1_18,19,23.wpd

Date: April 7/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: The Wonderful Cross - D

THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS
Text: I Corinthians 1:18,19,23

Key Word: Offence

Key Thought: the Thought of a Suffering Saviour Is Still an Offence to Our Modern Thinking

“The cross, it speaks of that which is so shameful, so horrible that it should not be mentioned in polite society.”

Marcus Tullius Cicero

was a Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar, philosopher and an academic sceptic

To Understand “Good Friday” We must Ask Some Vital Questions

I. HOW COULD A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER ALLOW IT?

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13; John 3:16; Galatians 5:1,6; Romans 3:23

II. HOW COULD A NATION ENDORSE IT?

Matthew 16:24,25; Galatians 2:20; Matthew 27:19-23; John 15:18,19

Hate finds good breeding grounds in wicked nations.

III. HOW COULD IT BRING ABOUT SUCH WIDESPREAD DELIVERANCE?

I Corinthians 1:18,19,25; Colossians 2:13-15

Deliverance in itself is not freedom, It is the opportunity to pursue freedom.

What we do with what God has freely given to us is our choice.

Make good use of the opportunity.