

Christ: In Him Crucified (A Healthy Church Part 3)

Relevant Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5 ; Mathew 20:25-28 ; Luke 23 ; Mark 8:32 ; John 9

Message Notes:

- Paul is saying to the Church that Jesus humbled himself, sacrificed himself, declaring to them, and to us, *the Power of God* is found in the *laying down of our lives*. This is Key.
- Our goal, and our purpose for having faith, should not be to become more wise or more gifted. We will have more of an effect and an impact on those around us by laying down our lives. This is how we serve.
- We are not to come to the church to be served, but to serve others.
- Three times in Luke 23, people cannot grasp how Jesus would lay down his life instead of saving himself with the power he had to do so. But he did not come to save himself, but to serve others.
- The Corinthians were quarrelling over who of the preachers of the day was better. That attitude was emptying the cross of its power. There was no growth or movement in the Church with that mindset.
- We are not here to save ourselves, not here as a 'Super Christian' that people flock to. We are not, or should not, be Christians in order to get anything from it. Instead, we are to daily lay down our lives. It may be foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is salvation to those God has called.
- Paul speaks to this using the terms 'destruction of the wisdom of the wise', and 'destruction of the intelligence of the intelligent'.
- God lays out a plan, and we sometimes try to propose an alternative instead of accepting that God knows what he's doing, far more than we do. What he's doing may not always make sense, but it is always right. We are not alone in this habit. Even Peter tried to tell Jesus what to do, rebuking him in Mark 8:32. It is not just the World who doesn't understand Jesus, Christians don't always either.
- To those whom God has called, Christ is the power, *not* the power of man. There is nothing of us in the power being used in our lives, it is fully of God. It is not to bring us up, but to display God, so that none may boast.
- It is because of Jesus we are saved, not because of any person here on earth. We have no power to save. None. Even with great wisdom, and signs. It is the cross alone that saves.
- You may say you don't know how to save people. You are correct. God alone can save. Instead of trying to save people, point them to the cross.
- Resolve to know nothing. All you know is Jesus and what he has done for us. When a blind man was healed in John, the Pharisee's questions about what if Jesus healed him out of the enemy's power were irrelevant to him. All he knew

was that, regardless of who Jesus was, he had been transformed by him, and that was enough. The Corinthians got so wrapped up in individuals, they forgot this simple fact. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the one who saves.