

The Message of the Cross

What is the “message of the cross” that Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 1:18-21? It is the simply the story of Jesus, the redemption plan for mankind. Later in the letter Paul will briefly retell the message in the following passage:

(1) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

(3) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)

Jesus gave an even more condensed version of the Gospel as He talked to Nicodemus in John chapter 3:

(16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16–17)

Jay Launius

Maud church of Christ

Maud, Texas