

2. How would you answer someone who says, "I believe there are many ways to God, and Jesus is just one of those ways?"

.....
.....

3. How does coming to Christ separate you from the world and its evil desires? In what ways have you seen this principle at work in your own life?

.....
.....
.....

4. How would you counsel someone who says he wants to follow Jesus but doesn't want to make any personal changes?

.....
.....
.....

5. In personal terms, what does it mean to take up your cross daily and follow Christ?

.....
.....
.....

6. What is the difference between justification and sanctification?

.....
.....
.....

7. Give several examples of ways professing Christians abuse the grace of God.

.....
.....
.....

sermon notes

MAY 1, 2011

SERMON SERIES: EASTER... MORE THAN A STORY

TODAY'S SERMON: THE CROSS AND YOU

SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18; GALATIANS 6:14; ROMANS 6:1-7 (NKJV)

THE CROSS IS THE UNIVERSAL SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY

1 The cross and my world

What does the cross mean to the world?

The world is offended by the cross.

.....
but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,
1 Corinthians 1:23 (NKJV)
.....

The world is judged by the cross.

.....
For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing..
1 Corinthians 1:18a (NKJV)
.....

The world is saved by the cross.

.....
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18b (NKJV)
.....

2 What the cross means to me

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CROSS

- death to the old life (ref. Romans 6:6 & 1 Peter 2:24)
- death to self (ref. Galatians 2:20)
- death to the flesh (ref. Galatians 5:24)
- death to the world

.....
But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)
.....

THE COMMANDS OF THE CROSS

- Carry the cross. (ref. Luke 9:23)
- Boast in the cross. (ref. Galatians 6:14)
- Preach the cross. (ref. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21)

3 The cross and my sin. Is real change possible?

TWO POWERFUL WORDS

- Justification
- Sanctification

.....
What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV)
.....

Here is the truth about the Christian's relationship to sin: you can sin, but you won't be happy!

WHAT HAPPENS TO A CHRISTIAN WHO CHOOSES TO SIN?

- Your life won't work right.

- God will stop you.
- If you persist in sin forever, it demonstrates that you were never truly saved.

Our union with Christ:

.....
Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4 (NKJV)
.....

Real change is possible:

.....
For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:5-7 (NKJV)
.....

By the grace of God we can live a different life!

study notes

1. Read Acts 17:16-34 (Paul's message on Mars Hill in Athens). What initial strategy did Paul follow when he came to Athens? How did he find common ground with the highly educated Athenians? How did they respond to his preaching?

.....
.....
.....
.....