

Christ and Him Crucified

(3) The Calling of the Cross



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be radically *cross-centered* and become more and more *cross-cultured*.



Message Map

1. The Centrality of the Cross
2. The Conquest of the Cross
3. **The Calling of the Cross**
4. The Community of the Cross



Key Text

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:2

→ "...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1:24).



Big Idea

Man is dead in himself and blind to the glory of God. We are brought into Christ by the merciful and sovereign calling of God alone, by which He awakens us from the dead and opens our eyes to His glory in the face of His Son.

(1) Understanding God's Calling

God's calling is not a mere divine invitation but a divine intervention. We must first have the Spirit of God before we can accept the things of God. We must first be given "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16) before we can receive the cross of Christ. In other words: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12:3). Your conversion is a new creation.

- 1 Cor 1:21; 26-28; 29-31; 2:14; 12:3; Joel 2:32; 2 Cor 4:6; 5:17

(2) Illustrating God's Calling

Paul's own conversion is an illustration of his teaching.

- 1 Cor 1:1a; Act 9:1-19

(3) Applying God's Calling

This is *our* story. The very word for church in the Greek is formed by joining two words which rendered literally together mean "called out ones." We are those who have been called out of this fallen world in Adam and called into the Messianic Son and the new world he has initiated.



Principled Action

Give thanks to God always (1 Cor 1:4, 8-9)!



Reflection Questions

- Read <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2010/06/11/two-views-of-the-same-door/> Have you experienced this? Do you look back and see that it was Him all along?
- Read Act 17:16-34, esp. vv. 32-34. What do you think accounts for the difference in response?
- Read Eph 2:1-10 against 1 Cor 1:18-31. Note the parallels that you see. What does this tell you about how and why God saved you?
- How does God's calling of you lead you to give thanks in all of life?