

The Old Rugged Cross:
The Death of Jesus in the Letters of Paul
Session 6 – Jesus' Death and the Christian Life
March 31, 2008

OPEN:

Tell of a time you tried something and weren't terribly successful. What happened? Did it help you in the future to have had that experience? Why or why not?

REVIEW:

According to Paul, who was the major player in the death of Christ?
Does this mean that God the Father killed Jesus?

What does Christ do for us by his death on the cross?

How do the death and resurrection of Jesus interrelate in God's saving activity?

What boundaries that used to exist between people were destroyed by the death of Christ?

What does the death of Christ have to do with worship practice?

...with morality as practiced by the Christian community?

STUDY:

We'll look at four passages today in which Paul talks about things that are happening to him personally. As we do so, we'll seek to find ways in which Paul speaks specifically about himself in order to illuminate something of the human condition as lived in the power of the cross.

Read Galatians 6:11-18. What contrasts does Paul point out between him and those who "boast in the flesh?"

According to verse 14, what has happened to Paul and what does it mean?

According to verse 15, what matters and what doesn't?

In verse 17, what does Paul carry on his body, and how does that affect our view of the Christian life?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. What are the “earthen vessels” (RSV) or “clay jars” (NRSV) that Paul refers to?

What is the treasure?

Why is the treasure hidden in such mundane vessels?

The sufferings of Paul indicate what two things, according to verses 10-11?

Read Philippians 3:2-11. Who does Paul warn the Philippians to beware of?

What makes them different from Christians?

What kind of life did Paul lead before knowing Christ?

How does he consider such a life now?

What does Paul want, according to verses 10-11?

How do these go together for us?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-4. Here, Paul warns the Corinthians that he may be harsh in dealing with them. He also claims two things for Christ in verses 3-4. What are they?

How are both of these kept together?

REVIEW

What have you learned from this class? What is one thing about this you’d like to remember?

REFLECT

What does the death of Christ have to do with worship practice?

...with morality as practiced by the Christian community?

...with who we are as the people of God?