

Prayer Points

Pray for the family of Margaret Buck as we gather to celebrate her life on Tuesday.

Pray for the 5 people getting baptised next week. Chris, Amberley, Daisy, Adrian and Sue.

Many people in Cambodia welcome the message and messengers of Jesus Christ. Please pray that BMS World Mission's efforts and collaboration with our partners will lead to churches being planted, people becoming disciples of Christ and the gospel being preached in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

March 24th 2024

Palm Sunday

The Cross of Christ

1 John 1:5 – 2:2



If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

“The Meaning of the Cross” - may strike you as being a bit theological and impractical. It sounds like the kind of thing that theology professors may enjoy discussing, but not the sort of thing that will help you work out problems in your marriage or raise your kids or pay your bills or overcome personal problems.

But in reality, there is no more practical subject in all the Bible. The cross of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. The cross reveals to us the character of God: His love for lost sinners and His perfect justice meet at the cross. If we want to grow in our love for God, which is the first and greatest commandment, then we must grow to understand and appreciate of the cross, which shows us His great love. If we want to grow in godliness, we must grow in understanding the significance of the cross, which confronts the most prevalent and insidious of all sins, namely, pride.

Context of 1 John

At this point, John was probably the last remaining apostle who was still alive. One church leader (Papias) called John a “living and abiding voice.” John’s ministry was centred in Ephesus where he taught and oversaw the churches in Asia Minor. Gnosticism was beginning to seep into the churches and gain a foothold. As John was an eyewitness to Christ and knew that this heresy and all it stood for was full of lies, he sought to use his authority to encourage believers to stay true to the real faith and keep heresies in all forms out of the churches.

How would you answer a non-Christian who asked, “Why can’t God just forgive everyone apart from the cross?”

1. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.
2. What does it mean that “God is light, and in Him there is not one bit of darkness”? How is this similar to what John wrote in John 1:1-5?

3. What is the meaning of “walking around in the darkness” in verse 6? We are all sinners so do we all walk in darkness? What clues can we get from the phrase “practice the truth”? See also John 8:12
4. When we are “walking around in the light,” according to verse 7, what two things result?
5. Have you ever heard anyone say they have no sin? Why would someone think that they have no sin or that their sin is not serious?
6. In verses 8, 9, & 10, there are three attitudes which we can have about sin. What are these three attitudes, and what must a Christian do to maintain fellowship with the Lord?

The Gnostics believed that the physical aspect of life, including the human body, is not important. This led to the belief that sins committed in the body didn’t matter. This also may lead to the statement that they (their spiritual selves) had no sin.

7. What are the results of “confessing our sins,” according to verse 9? Why is confession just the beginning and not the end goal?
8. What provisions has the Father made, according to chapter 2:1, for our sins? How adequate is the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross for sin, according to verse 2?
9. How does the Cross give us confidence over the enemy, guilt and our fears? Can you explain the gift of the cross to someone who never heard about Christianity? What would you say?