

The Cross of Christ is the Glory of God

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32).

Why was Jesus crucified? That is the question for us this Lenten season. In truth this question is always before us just as it has been before every Christian throughout history. In the early church, the crucifixion of Jesus was an embarrassment. As Justin explains,

“They [opponents of Christianity] say that our madness consists in the fact that we put a crucified man in second place after the unchangeable and eternal God, the Creator of the world” (Apology 1, 13.4).

You have to understand that the crucifixion appears to be a story of failure. Jesus was betrayed by one of his followers. He was arrested and beaten. He was subjected to a humiliating and painful death. How could he be a true king if he could not rule his own? How could he be the exalted Son of God if he died such a lowly death? You can begin to see why the early church struggled with the death of Jesus.

We struggle as well. Even though we are proud to wear a cross around our neck, we struggle with what the cross actually means. How can the cross be glorious? The resurrection is glorious. The exaltation is glorious. Victory and success is glorious. How can the cross be glorious?

You have to understand that the death of Jesus is both a victory and a success. The victory is over the ruler of the world. The Devil ruins us with lies and murder. Jesus confronts the Devil with truth and life. The cross is also a success because it clearly declares the love of God. Jesus shows love in a way that all people can understand, namely, he lays down his life. There is not a clearer picture of God’s love than the death of Jesus. Talk about glorious.

This Lenten season I would like all of you to come to church on Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday evenings. We will be working through the gospel of John. Come and see that the Cross of Christ really is the Glory of God.

Yours,
Pastor Russell Lackey