

The Power of the Cross

"For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:17-18, ESV)

The internal combustion engine has transformed human society. Instead of being solely pedestrians who sometimes ride dappled horses, weathered donkeys, and stubborn mules, we are pilots and passengers in automobiles. Yet, the the intake, compression, explosive power of combustion, and exhaustion of this human engine cannot match the power of the cross of Christ.

The atomic nucleus which releases its energy through radioactive decay, fission, or fusion has brought a certain life to naval vessels under seas, weapons of death, and cities of lights. Yet, with its complex and astute mathematical foundation through physics, it can not produce the energy which is in cross of Christ.

All of these creations of man's genius are as dust when compared to the power of Christ's cross. The frames of reference, the dispensations of the ages of man, in which God showed forth his desire manifest the glory of that humble act of submission. One man, God's son, on one wooden cross is all the power needed, fueled by God's own purpose, to redeem the fallen sons of Adam and daughters of Eve. It is not the words of men which are the power: men are only conductors of the energy which God has sent forth. We are vessels of his choice, each carrying the capacity he has seen fit to distribute for this mission. A blindfolded man cannot see the manifold lights dancing in the eyes of candles in the room. Those who consider the cross of Christ as nothing, mocking it, reviling it, are as good as that same man, until they submit to God and lose the veils from the eyes of their hearts.

Paul was not sent to baptize. Other vessels in Christ's church could easily handle this necessary objective in the mission. Paul was bearing in his body and word the truth of the cross which has the power to save souls from the world, and to rescue souls in the brotherhood. Not in shiny words did Paul speak, but plain words carrying the gospel of God, the message of the cross, converting pricking hearts of these clay containers. We preach not only from pulpits in buildings but by living lecterns of choice and example. By the power of the cross, let us determine to set out these vessels to the use of the perfect will of God, in service to Christ, expounding his word in each opportunity.