



1



2

The Point

The last thing the world needs to see
is a testimony that nullifies rather
than notarizes our message.

Be slow to speak
of faith until you can
**show that your faith is
more than a confession.**

Modeling the Gospel is simply
showing in our **RESPONSE** to a
broken world **that our faith, hope,
and love are centered in the Cross.**

3

1. Paul's MESSAGE was the WORD of the CROSS.

1 Thessalonians 2

"1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, **we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.** 3 For our exhortation does not **come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;** 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts. 5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed— God is witness— 6 nor did we **seek glory from men,** either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

**Paul did not compromise the Gospel message
of the Word and Way of the CROSS.**

4

Where should we expect to find "abundant life"?

John 1

"4 **In Him was life,** and the life was the Light of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it. ... 9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, **enlightens every man.** ...14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and **we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.** ...17 For the **Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.** 18 No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained Him.**

1 Corinthians 1

"21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, **God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached** to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but **we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness.**"

5

What were the O.T. Prophets expecting from Messiah?

1. This world focus

2. No respect for the CROSS!

Restoration

"The Day of the Lord"

Retribution

King	Land
Millennium	
Law	Spirit
Discipline	
Israel	
Tribulation	
Judgment	
Nations	

6

The unfolding message of the GOSPEL.

Paul's Proclamation

Jesus' Passion

Prophets' Prediction

Moses' Preparation

Abraham's Promise

Sabbath Peace



7

The N.C. does not fit under an O.C. context
where the fine print is still obedience to the Law.

Galatians 4

"4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order **that He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons."



We bear witness to the faith,
not by keeping the Law, but
by showing our freedom
from the Law and false
messiahs of this world
as we follow Christ.



8

The N.C. message - the Word & Way of the Cross

John 5:39

"You search the **Scriptures** (Old Testament), because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that **bear witness of Me**"

John 1:17

"For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**"



The main thing is to
keep the main thing,
the main thing.



9

Casual life sources

Critical life sources

Core life
sources



Knowing ourselves starts with knowing our core sources
of the desire of our heart, abundant life, image of God
(Serenity, Security, Significance, Sociability)

When our core longings are satisfied we are
freed from looking for life in all the wrong places
which often leads to anger, anxiety, addiction etc.

10

Our FUNCTIONAL MESSIAH
is that which makes us feel alive
(serene, secure, significant, sociable)

When we seek life in all the wrong places



**we mock Jesus as a
"FIGUREHEAD MESSIAH".**

11

Many functional messiahs
that may make us feel alive superficially.



12

2. Paul's **MODEL** was the **WAY** of the **CROSS**.

"7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a **nursing mother** tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to **impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.** 9 For you **RECALL**, brethren, our labor and **hardship**, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we **proclaimed to you the gospel of God.** 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were **exhorting** and **encouraging** and **imploring** each one of you as a **father** would his own children, 12 **so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you** into His own kingdom and glory."

Paul offers himself as a **MODEL** centered not in the Law or this world **but in Christ.**

13

"**Abundant life**" and our witness rests not in our **circumstances, but in how we respond to them.**

Philippians 2

"5 Have this **attitude (mindset)** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but **emptied** himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in **appearance** as a man, he **humbled** Himself by becoming **obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Philippians 4

"11 Not that I speak from want; **for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.** 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**"

14

We MODEL where to get "living water" by how we respond to life's circumstances.



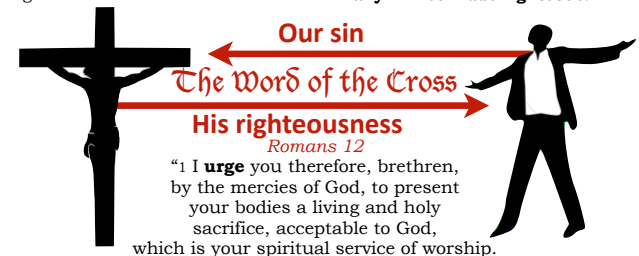
15

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Romans 5:19

"For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**"



The Way of the Cross

A Renewed Mind

2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect "

16

The Way of the Cross **MODELED**

- Jesus' temptation in the wilderness - Matt.4:1-11
- Jesus' Galilean ministry among the "have-nots"
- Rich young ruler's challenge - Mk.10:17-31
- The rich are glorified in humility - Jas.1:9-11
- Beatitudes (blessed are the poor) - Matt.5:1-12
- Jesus' enters Jerusalem on a donkey - Matt.21:5
- Paul's contentment in all things - Phil.4:11-13
- God calls the "have-nots" - 1 Cor.1:26-31
- The widows mite / wealth - Mk.12:41-44
- Paul's thorn in the flesh - 2 Cor.12:7-10
- Find life by losing it - Lk.9:23-27



17

I Thessalonians



18