

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 17

The apostle Paul was a man on a mission, but when it came to God's redemptive plan, Paul clearly understood where his contribution ended and Christ's work began. He was also very aware of the dangers that existed when overstepping that threshold, which is why we find our passage today coming at the tail-end of a sharp rebuke.

At the time there were disagreements and divisions among the believers in Corinth. Some factions were saying, "I am of Paul" others said, "I of Apollos," and still others said, "I of Cephas." At its core, the problem was that these believers were elevating the works of man to such a degree that they identified more with the religious leaders and preachers who baptized them than they did with Jesus Christ, the Savior who suffered and died to save them.

Without this important context you might think that Paul is somehow diminishing the value or significance of baptism in the life of a believer, but what Paul is illustrating is that salvation doesn't come from being baptized, nor is it dependent on the eloquence of a preacher or the wisdom of man, but salvation comes through Christ alone and to Him alone be the glory!

As Easter approaches, we can find comfort in knowing that the work of salvation doesn't rest on our shoulders. Praise God that work is already finished! But I do pray that as you have an opportunity to reflect on God's great love for you and the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross, that it would motivate you to #liveoutward and to share the good news, knowing that this is God's purpose for you, and it is by His power that we get to participate in God's redemptive plan.

– Pastor Darren Oglesbee

For Christ did not
send me to
baptize, but to
preach the gospel,
not with
cleverness of
speech, so that
the cross of Christ
would not be
made void.

– 1 Corinthians 1:17

