

# **The Crucified Living Emphasis**

## *Executive Summary*

### **Summary Findings:**

- Generalized absence of Christ's cross as focal point for daily living
- SBC D.Min. studies ignore subject
- Systematic instruction on the cross of Christ has appeal
- Increased understanding of the crucifixion of Jesus causes both personal and institutional behavioral changes

### **Measurable Outcomes**

#### **1. Specific Institutional Reform**

- For 85 years the bylaws mandated the church to observe the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter. This was changed unanimously by the church.
- Article VII Section 2 A of the bylaws now reads:  
    "The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated at least once a month unless otherwise ordered by vote of the church, or the proper committee."

#### **2. Initiation of Changed Behavior**

- 61% decided to be more forgiving.
- 59% live with more sensitivity to sin.
- 36% initial increase in giving
- 25% became a better spouse.
- 15% increase in small group (S.S.) attendance
- 6% increase of those "very likely" to invite a co-worker to attend church.
- 8% increase of those "very likely" to visit inactive member.

#### **3. Measured Increase in Knowledge**

- 30% increase in knowledge of the cross of Jesus

#### **4. Measured Increase in Awareness**

- 15% increase in the awareness in thinking about how the cross of Christ connects to the overall quality of life
- 14% increase in awareness of how the cross of Jesus relates to all aspects of life.

#### **5. Surveyed Identification of Needs**

- 73% of participants recognized the need for the church to begin a new membership class.
- 68% of participants cited support for observing the Lord's Supper at least once a month.
- 59% of participants identified the need to improve evangelistic efforts.

| <b>Overview</b> |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>Week</b>     | <b>Small Group Curriculum</b>   | <b>Expository Messages</b>  |
| <b>1</b>        | “The Lord’s Ironic Logo” – <i>Following Jesus Christ on His Terms</i> - Luke 9:23-26    | AM: 3 Foundations for Following Jesus Christ<br>Luke 9:28-36 (The Lord’s Supper Observed)<br>PM: 4 Ways to Carry the Dying of Jesus<br>(Col. 1:24; 2 Cor. 13; 2 Cor. 5:15,17) |
| <b>2</b>        | “The Cross: God’s Standard for His Community of Joy” (Part 1) - 1 Cor. 1:10-17          | AM: 2 Differences Between God’s People and the World - (1 Corinthians 1:18-20)<br>PM: 2 Eternal Lessons from the Crucified Thieves<br>(Luke 23:39-43)                         |
| <b>3</b>        | “The Cross: God’s Standard for His Community of Joy” (Part 2) - 1 Cor. 1:21-25          | AM: 3 Ways the Cross Destroys Pride – 1 Cor. 1:26-31<br>PM: 7 Crucial Words of the Atonement (various texts)<br>Source: Leon Morris’ <i>Apostolic Preaching of the Cross</i>  |
| <b>4</b>        | “Christ Crucified” - <i>God’s X-Factor in Powerful Proclamation</i> - 1 Cor. 2:1-5      | AM: 4 Principles of a Faithful Preacher – Acts 18:4-17<br>PM: 4 Horrors of God’s Hell – Luke 16:23-31<br>(The Lord’s Supper Observed)   |
| <b>5</b>        | “Thankfully Defeated” – <i>Life Under God’s Conquering Sovereignty</i> - 2 Cor. 2:14-17 | AM: 2 Mysteries of Suffering and the Cross – Acts 2:22-24<br>PM: 3 Elements of Christ’s Triumph Over Evil Powers (Colossians 2:15)  |
| <b>6</b>        | “Living Letters” – <i>The Proof of Crucified Living</i> - 2 Cor. 3:1-6                  | AM: 3 Glories of the New Covenant – 2 Cor. 3:7-18<br>PM: 2 Revelations of the Lamb – Revelation 5:4-14  |
| <b>7</b>        | “Life in the Balance” – <i>Pan Scales Tipped in Our Favor</i> 2 Cor. 4:16-18            | AM: Power through Weakness: 3 Principles of Crucified Living – 2 Cor. 12:7-10<br>PM: The Passion of the Christ Movie - (The Lord’s Supper observed afterward in silence)      |
| <b>8</b>        | “Broken and Blessed” – <i>Clay Vessels with Precious Treasure</i> - 2 Cor. 4:7-12       | AM: 2 Priorities of Easter – 1 Cor. 15:3-10<br>PM: Easter Choir Presentation  |