SERMON NOTES

IMMANUEL CHURCH

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS | 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

SPEAKER: Joseph Munyampara | **DATE:** November 8, 2026

OVERVIEW

The cross has a message and the message of the cross is our only hope.

1. The Message of the Cross Is...
What Christ Has Done For Us

- The message of the cross is salvation through Jesus Christ
- God was pleased to save those who believe through a message that sounds senseless
- The message of the cross can seem foolish but it is the power of God and the wisdom of God (v.23-24)

2. The Message of the Cross is...
A Message That Divides

- The message of the cross can divide people
- The cross did not make sense for the Jews since they believed that "anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse" (Deut 21:23)
- Paul received three responses when preaching in Athens (Acts 17:32-34)
    1. Curiosity
    2. Mocking
    3. Belief

3. The Message of the Cross is...
Who We Are Because Of Him

- Paul urges the church in Corinth to remember the day they received Christ (v.26)
- We have been given a new identity
- We can be proud of this! "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord" (v. 31)
- We have been given a new life and that life is worthy celebrating

QUESTIONS

Use for community group discussion or personal reflection

GO DEEPER

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. What stood out to you from this passage and/or the sermon?
2. Why do you think God chose the cross as the means of bringing salvation?
3. In verse 18, Paul says that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but the power of God to those being saved. Why do you think people view the cross so differently?
4. Verse 21 says that it pleased God to save people through "the foolishness of what was preached." What does this suggest about how God chooses to work?
5. Why do you think Paul reminds the Corinthians to consider who they were when God called them? (vs.26)

MOVE FORWARD

1. How does the cross challenge our culture's ideas about power, influence, success, and greatness?
2. Where do you feel the most pressure to soften the message of the gospel to make it more acceptable to the world?
3. How would you explain the message of the cross to someone who has never heard it?
4. Take time to think of what you were when you were called and share briefly about the moment when you first receive Christ?