

**PARADOX: LIVING THE CRUCIFIED LIFE**

**“YOU Are Not Alone”**

**Pastor Harlyn**

**August 13, 2023 – 180 Church**

**2 Corinthians 10:1-2, 17-18; 2 Corinthians 11:30; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 2 Corinthians 13:4; 1 Corinthians 1:20-24; Luke 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV)**

**“If your God never disagrees with you, you might be worshipping an idealized version of yourself.”**

Timothy Keller

**2 Corinthians 10:1-2** “I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away! — <sup>2</sup>I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.”

**2 Corinthians 10:17-18** “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord <sup>18</sup> For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”

**2 Corinthians 11:30** “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.”

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** “But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**2 Corinthians 13:4** “For He was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but in dealing with you we will live with Him by the power of God.”

**1 Corinthians 1:20-24** “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

\_\_\_\_\_ is the lived experience of belief.

**“How does the crucifixion / how does the \_\_\_\_\_ tell me to respond to this situation?”**

**Luke 9:23-24** “And He said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

**1 Corinthians 2:2** “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

---

**LOOK IN:**

1. What might it look like in your own life for you to “boast in your weaknesses?” What impact do you think this could have on how you view yourself and how others relate to you?
2. How do you generally treat/view those who either don’t know or have rejected the Gospel? How does this sermon/these passages impact your attitude?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being, ‘I’m 100% living for myself,’ and 10 being, ‘I’m 100% living a cruciform life shaped only by Jesus,’ where would you rate yourself? What do you think it might take to move yourself up a point on that scale? What changes might you need to make in how you think or behave?
4. What identity do you tend to cling to (and we all have something we cling to by default that isn’t Jesus)? How might this identity or value prevent you from being able to follow Jesus fully and do all he’s asking you to?