

Words of Wisdom by [John T Polk II](#)
For [WECO FM 101.3](#) and [The Fellowship Room](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

3-06-2017 A Calendar Or the Cross

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (**1 Corinthians 2:1-2**).

It is this fact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the Apostle Paul was determined to preach. By following a man-made religious calendar, people have been turned away from that Cross. "Christmas" diverts attention to Jesus' birth; "Lent" places the emphasis upon human denial; "Easter" skips the cross to Jesus' resurrection; and "the thief on the cross" makes salvation from a thief rather than Jesus! Bible faith says:

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (**Galatians 6:14**).

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3-07-2017 Cross Caused Division

Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law (**Luke 12:51-53**).

Jesus had just referred to His crucifixion as His "baptism" (**Luke 12:50**), which can cause dysfunctional family relationships when not everyone in the family believes in His cross. Today, some call for racial, bloody riots, and deaths, which divides families, instead of appealing to everyone to come to Jesus' Cross for the love of God.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (**Romans 6:3**)

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3-08-2017 Misunderstood Cross

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him' (**Matthew 27:39-42**).

[Jesus had said,] "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (**John 2:19**)

And John explained:

But He was speaking of the temple of His body (**John 2:21**).

To His dying day on the cross, Jews misunderstood, and misrepresented, His actual words. Since "as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (**Romans 6:3**), don't misunderstand this!

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3-09-2017 No Baptism, No Cross of Christ

In Corinth, Paul "testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*" (**Acts 18:5**).

Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized (**Acts 18:8**).

Jesus had said to:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:15-16**).

Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name (**1 Corinthians 1:14-15**).

A sinner's baptism is "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**), not Paul's name. Paul made no change in the Gospel, "lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect" (**1 Corinthians 1:17**).

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3-10-2017 The Cross of Christ, Not Circumcision

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ (**Galatians 6:12**).

There are people who preach religious practices from Moses just to avoid being persecuted for following Christ. God required fleshly circumcision from Abraham through Moses, but now has changed to a new covenant.

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law (**Galatians 5:2-3**).

Keeping Moses Law, whether 10 Commandments or circumcision, makes Jews, not Christians!

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation (**Galatians 6:15**).

If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain (**Galatians 2:2**).

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