

Topic: The “Offence” of The Cross

Text: Galatians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Aim: To explain what the cross means, why it provokes resistance and how believers should respond to it.

Introduction:

In christian circle, we often speak about the offence of the cross, but some believers do not know what it means. Offence of the cross is the shame and scorn believers encounter through their salvation journey in Christ Jesus. The gospel challenges human pride and sin. It also demands repentance, making it offensive to those who rejects God’s truth. To the world the cross may appear foolish or weak but to those who are saved, it is the power of God unto salvation. Following Christ may attract criticism, persecution or mockery yet it remains the only path to eternal life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the phrase “offence of the cross” mean? Discuss. Gal. 5:11; Isaiah 53:3-5.
2. Why does the message of the cross offend the unbelievers? 1 Cor. 1:22-24; John 3:19-20; Jn. 8:41-45
3. How should believers respond to persecution or rejection because of the gospel? Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:10-14; Heb. 13:12-13; Heb. 12:2
4. Discuss the rewards for carrying the cross and following Christ. Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:15-18, Hebrew 11:24- 26, Matthew 11:6

Conclusion:

The “offence of the Cross” reminds believers that the Christian journey is not about worldly acceptance but about faithfulness to Christ. The truth of the gospel will not always be welcomed, but it must be preached without compromise. Bearing the reproach of the cross is part of our calling, and God rewards those who stand firm to the end.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”