

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-17

Theme: Out of your minds

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is St. Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth chapter five verses one through seventeen.

It was in 1929 that a German scientist by that name of Hans Berger proved what many scientist had suspected for years that there is electrical activity in the brain. He proved that some of us run on 220 volts while other are running on about 110. Just kidding.

But his discovery led to the development of the, (pay attention now because this is the biggest word I have ever tried from the pulpit) electro-en-see-fala-graph. What this device enabled medical personal to do was measure and record the electrical activity of the brain known as an EEG. This was found to be very helpful in diagnosing disorders and malfunctions of the brain. For the first time in history man was able to take a look at what was going on inside the brain. What would they see if they looked at your brain? Would they say you are insane, out of your mind, or sane, in your right mind? In our text for today, St. Paul says, "If you are out of your mind you are for the Lord, if I am in my right mind it is for you."

1. Crazy? Yes, because of what we proclaim, L and G

"You are crazy." That is what we as Christians may seem like to the world around us given what we proclaim. The world says that if we are good enough and do enough good things that we can save ourselves from sin and from eternal damnation. That if you have enough things then you will finally be truly happy. Yet, as Christians, we proclaim that

we are sinners in thought, word, and deed. We proclaim that we are in fact not good people at all at our very core. We proclaim that we cannot save ourselves, we can never be good enough. We can never be perfect, Our only way to salvation is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The very fact that St. Paul declares in our text for today. “One has died for all, therefore all have died 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.” We proclaim that we are saved by grace alone and faith alone. Saved only by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. To the world this very thing is the babblings of insane people who deserve to be locked up and on medications forever and ever.

2. Gospel makes us new creations in Christ

Yet we are no insane. We are not crazy. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, God takes our old, sinful ways, and makes us His new creations in Christ, purchased and won by His blood. This means that we do not do the evil things that our sinful nature wants to do but the good things that God has given us to do. We do our best to resist our sinful nature by living in the fear and love of God. As we go about our lives upon this earth, we keep in mind the joy over the love God has shown to us, as well as the fear of God over what will happen on the Last Day. That when Christ comes again in Glory, we, along with all creation, must give an account for the things that we have done. This fact motivates us to continue to do the good things God has given us to do. God’s grace is so abundant that even the word he graciously provides, He rewards. What works are these that we have been given to do?

3. Use what we have been given for the benefit of others= Salvation of Souls.

Nothing less than the salvation of souls. We are seemingly crazy for the benefit of those around us. We are being motivated by the love of Christ for us, shown on the cross, to give up everything if needed in order to bring them to the saving grace of God. Christ gave up everything for us and has given us all of the blessings of heaven in

return. Why would we not do likewise for those around us? Of course we would. This means that we use the gifts God has granted to us, such as time, money, possessions, everything we have, even our very lives, we use for the sake of the Gospel. This could be something as simple as putting money into a special offering plate for mission work, or actually going overseas for humanitarian work. It could mean praying for someone that they turn from the sinful ways, repent of their sins, trust in God and receive the blest words of Absolution. It could be knocking on doors inviting parents and children to Vacation Bible School. It could be sitting and having coffee with a friend, giving them comfort and encouragement as they struggle against their sinful nature and the world that we live in. All of this seems crazy, as it is putting others, their wants and needs, as well as their eternal well-being, before our own.

Crazy, insane? Perhaps, but better to be crazy for God than sane for the world around us. All because the Love of Christ is within our minds. Everything we do is for God, for the glory of His name, and the eternal benefit of those around us.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.