

Pastor Randy's short devotion for February 16th:

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

My confirmation lesson for my class today is "The Cross", which begins with this verse. We see the cross a number of different places. It is a reminder of what Jesus endured for us. Crucifixion was the most painful death the Roman government could inflict upon a person. It was so painful, that it was illegal for a Roman Citizen to be crucified. We did not witness Jesus' crucifixion in person and if we had, it would have been devastating. Those who had placed their hopes on Jesus as the Messiah of God, to change the world, didn't know about Easter morning. If Easter hadn't happened, it would have dramatically changed our faith and history. Jesus would have simply been another itinerant preacher, probably one that we would have never heard about today. But after Easter morning, with Jesus' rising from the dead, we ask the question, why did Jesus do that? Why did God do that? Jesus answered the question before his death, when he predicted he would suffer the cross. Jesus said, "It is necessary." The cross is necessary defines the depth of God's love for you. Jesus bore the cross to defeat sin and death, the powers that try to separate you from God. In Jesus' death and resurrection, there is nothing that can separate you from God's love. Jesus refused to leave you in the brokenness of the world. Jesus comes seeking you, for there is no where, no place you can journey to where Jesus' love cannot find you and claim you with his love.