

There are lots of people with ideas that sound good. Some of those ideas are even valid and true.

The apostle Paul wrote much of our New Testament. He had plenty of wisdom to share, and knew how to be eloquent. But when he came to Corinth, he chose to emphasize just one topic: Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Here, he even explains why – so their faith would rest on the power of God, not on the wisdom of men.

How does Jesus being executed in a cruel and excruciatingly painful way demonstrate the power of God? Someone could write a large book on just that subject. We'll just hit three things.

1. Jesus Put the ultimate exclamation point on the perfect life He lived. He was obedient to His Father up to and including death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

2. Jesus and God the Father solved the seemingly unsolvable problem of human sin. The penalty of death had to be paid for sin. But God deeply desired to be merciful and forgive us. In a move no one saw coming, God paid the penalty Himself through Jesus. God used death itself to make eternal life available to everyone. Only God can come up with something like that.

3. Having made use of death to accomplish His purpose, God demonstrated His power over even death by permanently bringing Jesus back to life.

That's what makes Christianity different from any other religion or system of beliefs. It's not based on human ideas or wisdom, but on God's clearly and irrefutably demonstrated power.

Prayer:

Precious Father, thank you for the power you demonstrated through Your Son, Jesus. Thank you for His perfect life, for His obedience even to the point of death and for showing Your power over death. Thank you for making eternal life available to us and for forgiving our sins.

Please bless the bread that reminds us of Jesus' body and the juice that reminds us of the blood He shed to wash away our sins. Father, we confess that we are unworthy on our own. Enable us to participate in this remembrance in a worthy manner. In Jesus' precious and holy name we pray, amen.