

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

St. Paul's is a simple and focused message and mission—the same that we share with believers, nonbelievers, seekers, and skeptics. When we contribute our weekly dollars to Mission 1-1-1 this is what we are saying to our world: knowing Christ and him crucified is not complicated.

In the Gospel of John, we see Him as the Living Word from "In the beginning..." John 1:1 (ESV). Further in John's Gospel, we get to know Him in His "I am" declarations in chapters 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, and 15. We see Him in His "This is" statements in Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22 when He institutes the Sacrament of the Altar. We know of Him in these gospel accounts and from the words He speaks from the cross: "Father, forgive them..." Luke 23 (ESV).

"I am..." "This is..." and "Father, forgive them..." are not complicated. Let's please keep this focus in mind in our Mission 1-1-1 giving. A complete theology to share comes from the Lord's Word in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*