

Examining Three Crosses

Pt I



Matthew 27:38

An Examination of Three Crosses

- To many Christians the scene of the cross is a moving and emotional experience within Scripture.
- It stirs within the reader emotions of guilt, humility, anger, mourning, and love.
- The cross of Christ is the very definition of agape love, yet Christ was not the only one hanging from a cross that Friday...

An Examination of Three Crosses

*Then were there two thieves crucified with him,
one on the right hand, and another on the left.*

~ **Matthew 27:38**

An Examination of Three Crosses

- In addition to the cross of Jesus Christ, the remaining two crosses tell us a story as well.
- They each are directly effected by the man who hangs between them with a sign reading, “This is Jesus The King of The Jews” posted above Him.
- These other two crosses directly impact each and every one of us, and force every single person on this earth to make a pivotal decision.

**This morning let us examine the
first of these three crosses
respectfully, humbly, and
lovingly...**

The Cross of The Savior



An Examination of Three Crosses

- Many Prophets of the Old Testament knew the manner in which Jesus would die..

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet

~ Psalm 22:16

An Examination of Three Crosses

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

~ **Isaiah 53:5-6**

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In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo...In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.

~ **Zechariah 12:11, 13:1**

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For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: *'And He was numbered with the transgressors.'* For the things concerning Me have an end.”

~ **Luke 22:37 (Isaiah 53:12)**

An Examination of Three Crosses

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

~ **John 3:14-15**

A Cross of Love



An Examination of Three Crosses

The Cross Is The Ultimate symbol of God's Love.

There is nothing greater that God Himself could have done than given His sinless perfect son to die on the cross in place of us.

He did this freely and willingly to save the human race that was dead to sin...

An Examination of Three Crosses

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

~ **John 3:16**

An Examination of Three Crosses

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

~ **John 15:13**

An Examination of Three Crosses

- The Love of Christ is in the blood that spilled from His body and made me clean...

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

~ Revelation 1:5

A Cross of Sacrifice



An Examination of Three Crosses

- **Sacrifice –**

1. To freely give up something for the benefit of others.
2. The shedding of innocent blood to pay for sins.

An Examination of Three Crosses

- **He Gave Himself Up Freely For Us**

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

~ **Ephesians 5:2**

An Examination of Three Crosses

- While on this earth Jesus Sacrificed:

Leaving Heaven for 1/3 of a century:

For I have come down from heaven, not to do
My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

~ John 6:38

An Examination of Three Crosses

- **He sacrificed His equality with God, which involve death upon the Cross:**

being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

~ Philippians 2:6-8

An Examination of Three Crosses

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **though He was rich**, yet for your sakes **He** became poor, that you through His poverty might become **rich**.

~ 2 Corinthians 8:9

An Examination of Three Crosses

- **He Gave Up His Immunity to Temptation**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

~ **James 1:13**

An Examination of Three Crosses

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

~ Hebrews 4:15

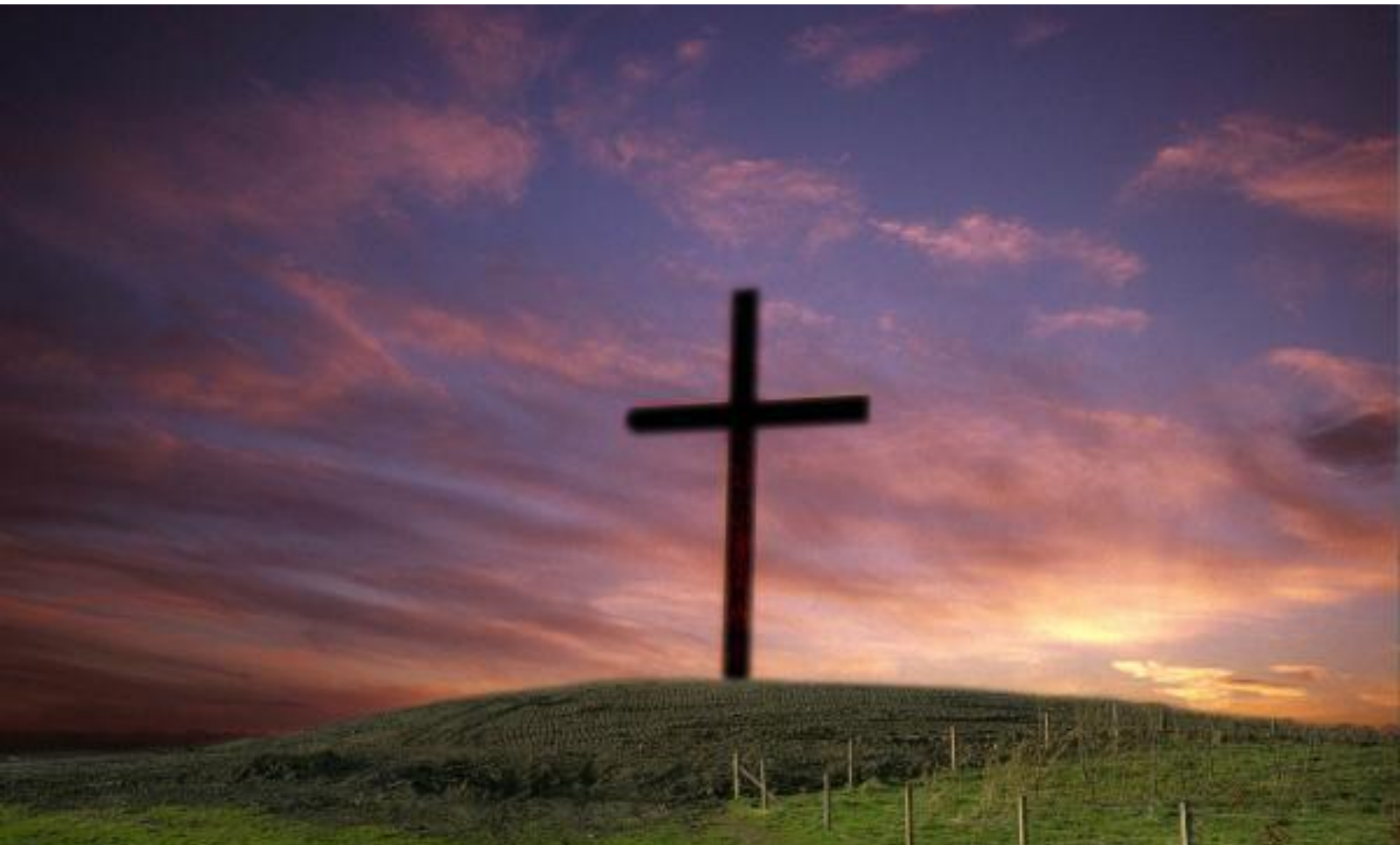
An Examination of Three Crosses

- **The only one who ever walked among us that had no sin to die for freely paid for ours...**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:21

A Cross of Peace



An Examination of Three Crosses

- **Sin** – is a Violation of God’s Divine Law; It literally means to “miss the mark” as in Christ is the Mark set by God.
- Sin is dangerous and detrimental to our souls.
- It is a spiritual sickness that can eat away at the moral compass of any of God’s Children.

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- **By its very nature Sin demands separation from God.**

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have
separated you from your God; And your sins have
hidden His face from you, So that He will not
hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2

An Examination of Three Crosses

- The peace that comes from Christ is that through His Blood, and His Sacrifice the wall of these sins is removed, and we are restored whole before God once again...

*For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ~ **Colossians 1:19-20***

An Examination of Three Crosses

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

~ **Philippians 4:6-8**

A Cross of Joy



An Examination of Three Crosses

- It might seem odd to consider the cross as an element of joy given how horrible of an event this was for Christ.
- Yet The Hebrew writer tells us that there was joy in Christ for undertaking this task...Because the salvation of mankind would be the end result...
- That's how much Christ cares for you, that He could find joy in His task, despite the cross....

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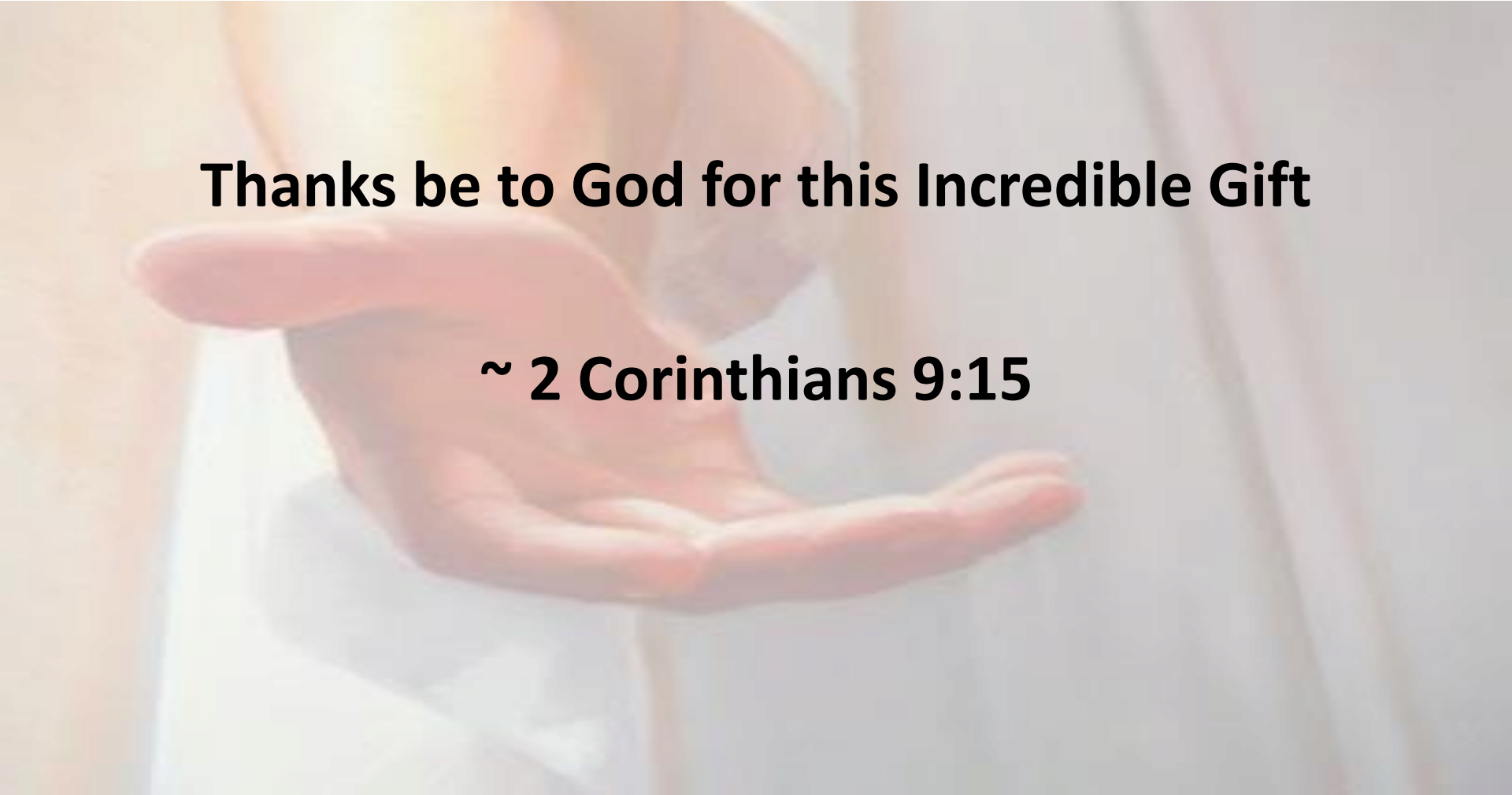
Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

~ **Hebrews 12:1-3**

An Examination of Three Crosses

- Because of the cross of Christ:
 - We have Peace
 - We have Hope
 - We have Restoration
 - We have Fellowship
 - We have Joy
 - We have Forgiveness of Sin

Because of the Cross We Are Free!



Thanks be to God for this Incredible Gift

~ 2 Corinthians 9:15

Will You Allow Christ To Remove Your Chains?