

What The Cross Teaches Us

Pt.1



1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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- Throughout the history of the human race there have been moments that are forever etched in time.
- The Signing of the Declaration of Independence
- Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream Speech"
- The Allied Invasion of Normandy
- The 1909 Flight of the Wright Brothers
- 1969 Neil Armstrong Walking on the Moon

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- While these are only a mere few in the great scope of human history, nothing can be said to compare to the cross of Christ.
- The Cross is the greatest moment in human history because it is the summit of God's love, promise, sacrifice, and redemption of mankind.

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- It was on that day some 2,000 that we gained our freedom from sin and death forever.
- No other moment in our history has or ever will compare to the cross that stood on Golgotha at Calvary.

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For this reason, this week and next week we will look to the cross for two things:

- 1. To See What the Cross Teaches Us About People - Mankind**
- 2. To See What the Cross Teaches Us About God**

What The Cross Teaches About Mankind



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- The Cross is God's supreme declaration to mankind.
- But What is God revealing to us through the cross?
- What do we learn from the structure that was responsible for killing the Lord?

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1. The Cross Declares Mankind's Guilt

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

~ **Isaiah 53:6**

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What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one"

~ Romans 3:9-10

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For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

~ **Romans 3:23**

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- When we look at the cross
- When we see the blood running down from the Lord and dripping onto the ground
- When We hear the groans of agony
- When We see the nails piercing His hands and feet

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- It says to each and every one of us :

“You put me here, You are guilty, you have done wrong.”

The Cross demonstrates our guilty verdict of having committed sin.

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2. The Cross Declares Mankind's Helplessness.

- While the Cross declares our guilt it also reveals that we are powerless in and of ourselves to atone for that guilt.
- If we could there would have been no need for God to send His Son to earth in the first place.

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- We still cannot simply say that since we are lost, and that we cannot save ourselves that we will just give up.

Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

~ Hebrews 5:8-9

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*Is the law then against the promises of God?
Certainly not! For if there had been a law
given which could have given life, truly
righteousness would have been by the law.*

~ Galatians 3:21

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- There is no law that can take away sin and death (**Hebrews 9:13-14**), it can only roll it forward to the next year.
- Thus sin and death are joined together and inseparable.
- In Christ however, we have grace, mercy, love and forgiveness.

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- Without Christ we cannot be righteous, we cannot be forgiven, we cannot be free.
- When we stand at the foot of the cross and look at Jesus every lie we have ever told, any act that has been in violation of God, any deed we have ever done has been paid for by Him because we cannot pay for it ourselves (***that is why we would lose our souls without Christ***).

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3. The Cross Declares Mankind's Need To Obey

To forgive us of our sins, Christ had to be obedient to God.

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 2:8

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Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

~ Hebrews 5:8-9

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- **Christ asks for our humble obedience in return**

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may **be** tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful** until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

~ **Revelation 2:10**

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4. The Cross Declares Mankind's Need To Be Living Sacrifice.

- This does not mean that you deny yourself everything and anything in this world.
- Christ is not asking you to become a hermit who lives in a hole, sleeps on a rock, and eats once a day.

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- What is meant by Sacrificial Living is simply to say that we:

“Reject Ourselves as King; Recognize Christ as King; And Humbly Follow Him in Our Daily Lives.”

~ Thomas B. Warren (*Jesus The Lamb Who Is A Lion*)

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- **This is why the Apostle Paul States:**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

~ Romans 12:1

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- **It is what Jesus meant when He said:**

Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, **and take up his cross daily**, and follow Me.”

~ **Luke 9:23**

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- The cross is a powerful reminder of mankind's relationship, need, and reliance upon God.
- It is Why we have so many songs in our hymn books that are dedicated to the Cross:
 - **When I Survey The Wondrous Cross**
 - **The Old Rugged**
 - **The Way of the Cross Leads Home**
 - **Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary**
 - **Ten Thousand Angels**

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- It is almost too difficult to think of what it would be like entering into eternity without the Cross...
- To die knowing that the payment for my sins is 100% fully upon me...
- What could I offer to God that would atone for my transgressions? I would only hear depart from me you who work iniquity **(Luke 13:27)**

But Because of the Cross of Christ....

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

~ Ephesians 2:14-16

We Won't Have To.