

# The Cross of Christ

## Introduction

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

1. **There is no exaggeration when I say that the death of Jesus on the cross is the pivotal point in the history of mankind.**
2. **The Bible shows us that the cross of Christ is the “heart” of the gospel.**

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- A. **Our relationship to the Christ of the cross determines our eternal destiny.**
- B. **Without the cross, Jesus is not the Christ and the gospel is not good news**

Luke 24:25-27 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

3. **We need to appreciate fully the importance of the cross in the scheme of redemption – to see more clearly how central the cross is to our salvation!**

## **The Necessity of the Cross**

- 1. Our salvation could not have been made possible without the cross.**
- 2. It was necessary, first of all, that it did for us what we could never have done for ourselves.**

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

- 3. Jesus drank the cup of His suffering because it was not possible for it to be otherwise and our sins be forgiven.**

Matthew 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

### **Hebrews 5:7-9**

## The Death of the Cross

1. **Christ defeated death by dying for us**
2. **By submitting to death and then being resurrected, Jesus conquered the power of death**

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; **He shall bruise your head**, And you shall bruise His heel."

2 Timothy 1:10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

- A. **Irony of the highest order – in that Jesus gave us glory by submitting to shame and gave us victory by submitting to defeat.**
  - B. **He gave us life by submitting to death!**
3. **With NO sins of His own, Jesus accepted the penalty of death for our sins – He substituted Himself for us.**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

4. **That is why the cross is the death of death by the death of Christ**  
**Hebrews 2:14-15**

## The Blood of the Cross

1. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross cleanses us from sin.
2. It is a principle as old as the earth – that “life is in the blood.”  
**Leviticus 17:10-14**
3. The requirement that “the wages of sin is death” means when sin has been committed, death must occur to satisfy the demands of justice, i.e. life must be taken to atone for sin.
4. To say that life must be taken is to say that blood must be shed to atone for sin.
5. The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were pointing to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ
  - A. The shedding of His blood truly atoned for the sins of all mankind!  
**Hebrews 9:11-15**
6. The blood of Christ, and only His blood, can cleanse the stain of sin from a soul

Revelation 1:5 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,

- A. “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

## The Love of the Cross

1. **God's love for us is shown by the gift of His Son.**
2. **The fact that God gave His Son for us because He loved us is the most obvious fact in the New Testament.**

**John 3:14-17**

**1 John 4:7-11**

3. **Going to the cross obviously required love on Jesus' part also.**

John 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

4. **When we think seriously about the cross, surely we must be "constrained" by it to give ourselves back to God in love.**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

5. **The cross will cause us not only to love the Lord, but also to love His people.**

1 John 4:10-11 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

6. **The cross will cause us to be faithfully obedient to the Lord. Christ died for us that we might live for Him!**

**John 14:15**

## The Preaching of the Cross

1. **We should want to share the message of the cross with everyone!**
2. **The preaching of the gospel is the preaching of the cross.**  
**1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
3. **The preaching of the cross is a proclamation that Jesus is Lord as well as Christ – and it announces the conditions of acceptance of the gospel of Christ.**  
**Acts 2:36-39**
4. **It is the cross – and only the cross – by which Jesus “draws” men to Him.**

John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

5. **Our gratitude will cause us to preach the cross!**

### **(Demon- possessed man)**

Mark 5:19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

## Conclusion

1. "As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death." **(Rom 6:3-4)**
3. **We should live as Paul described:**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

