

The Cross

Concept:

As we focus on the cross, we all have images and emotions that immediately begin to come up out of the inside of us. We should remember the suffering and pain that Jesus endured for you and me. We never want to minimize the agony that the cross displays before us.

I am sure we all have seen pictures that show the whipped back, and nail pierced hands and feet. Jesus took my place of death, even though I was the one who legally should have been on the cross. Scripture and experience show us that it is difficult to get someone to die in the place of someone else. But there is no greater demonstration of love than to lay down your life for a friend. Jesus not only laid down his life for us but He decided to do it for us before the foundation of the world. How could I possibly doubt the love of a savior who chooses to die in my place before I ever came to the earth? A just God who predestined to pay the ransom price before there is a ransom price. Wow! Of course the ransom price was the shed blood of Christ on the cross. God set the price so high that only He could pay for me. That is an amazing truth that needs to penetrate our soulish realm.

What a commitment by the Trinity to guarantee that our fellowship had the potential to stay intact at all times. Jesus submitted to be made sin who knew no sin so that you and I could be made the righteousness of Christ and be set free from the debt and death of sin once and for all. (Hebrews 2:14,15; Romans 5:21) All I have to do is to receive the finished work of the cross and begin to apply the truth that it displays. It becomes an act of my will to receive or reject what Jesus accomplished on that “Old Rugged Cross”.

The cross not only plays a pivotal part of my life but it also is a central theme through out the Bible. Old Testament saints were looking forward to the cross. Every sacrifice that was made on the brazen altar pointed to the ultimate sacrifice that was going to take place on the cross. Every drop of blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat and the ground was pointing to the blood that would be shed on Calvary. When the prophets were writing they kept declaring that there would be a day when the Messiah would come-not just come- but also become the sacrifice. Isaiah 53 paints a picture of what was going to take place on the cross. Moses showed in Leviticus 16, how to get a release from sin for a year, only to foreshadow what the cross would do for eternity. As there was a detailed explanation of each sacrifice, there was more than an animal being killed; there was an outline of a picture that The Cross would bring to full light. The prophet Malachi verbally chastised the children of Israel because they were bringing animals that were blind, lame, and blemished to be sacrificed. I am sure they were wondering what the big deal was because the animal was going to be killed anyway. But it was a big deal, since these animals were representing the sacrifice that Jesus was going to make and He was not blemished in anyway. Of course, the greatest picture of the cross was in Exodus 12, when the Passover was given to the children of Israel. The lamb was slain and the blood became a covering, which kept death from touching each household. The victory of the blood was so great that every one of the Israelites were allowed to leave bondage, healed and prosperous. That was just a picture of the power that was released when The Lamb went to the cross.

The New Testament verified the Old Testament in the sense that, the types and shadows of the Old Testament became a reality in the New Testament. Jesus accomplished the

purpose of His Father by submitting to His will and suffering the pain and shame of the cross. When darkness covered the earth for three hours, my darkness was taken away. When He was whipped, I became healed. When His blood was shed on the cross, the curse of the law was removed. When the Eternal Spirit carried His blood into the Holy of Holies, I was released from the guilt and penalty of sin. We are free from the bondage of sin and have become a new creation that is righteous in the eyes of the Father.

As I stated earlier, not only is the cross a dividing line between the New and Old Testament, but it is also a dividing line for all living humanity. Are we going to receive the finished work of the cross? Are we going to take up the cross and follow the example that the cross portrays of death to self? Will I allow the purifying work of the blood to change me and accomplish God's purpose in me? Am I willing to forsake all and follow the radical example of sacrifice that is portrayed by a suffering savior? Is there a willingness to know Him in the pain of His suffering? Hopefully, all of these questions are answered with a resounding Amen! Therefore, let us agree together that areas of our lives that are not like Christ will be transformed by the sanctifying work that Christ accomplished on the cross. Let's look at the scriptures that show the concept and reality of the cross and believe the Word to transform us.

Seven Last Sayings on the Cross

1. Matthew 27:46
2. Luke 23:34
3. Luke 23:43
4. Luke 23:46
5. John 19:27
6. John 19:28
7. John 19:30

Old Testament Pictures of the Cross

1. Exodus 12:6-10
2. Exodus 15:25,26
3. Exodus 17:5-7
4. Exodus 15:25
5. Numbers 20:6-8
6. Numbers 21:4-8

Scripture on the Cross

1. Deuteronomy 21:22,23
2. Joshua 8:29
3. Joshua 10:26
4. Galatians 3:13
5. II Samuel 21:9-14
6. Isaiah 53:12
7. John 10:11
8. John 12:23,24
9. Romans 5:6
10. I Corinthians 15:3
11. II Corinthians 5:15
12. John 15:13
13. Galatians 1:4
14. Ephesians 5:2
15. Titus 2:14
16. I John 3:16
17. Hebrews 9:26
18. I Peter 3:18
19. Revelations 1:5
20. Isaiah 53:7
21. John 1:29
22. I Corinthians 5:7
23. I Peter 1:18,19
24. Revelation 7:9
25. Hebrews 9:28

26. I Peter 2:24
27. Matthew 8:17
28. I John 3:5
29. Hebrews 2:9
30. Matthew 16:24
31. Matthew 27:32
32. Matthew 27:40-42
33. Luke 14: 27
34. John 19:17-19
35. Acts 2:23
36. I Corinthians 1:17,18
37. Galatians 5:11
38. Galatians 6:12-14
39. Ephesians 2:16
40. Philippians 2:8
41. Philippians 3:18
42. Colossians 1:20
43. Colossians 2:14,15
44. Hebrews 12:2
45. Matthew 20:19
46. Matthew 26:2
47. Mathew 27:26
48. Matthew 27:35
49. Mark 15:15
50. Mark 15:32

51. Mark 16:6
52. Luke 23:23
53. John 19:38-42
54. Acts 2:36
55. Acts 4:10
56. Romans 6:6
57. I Corinthians 1:13
58. I Corinthians 1:23
59. I Corinthians 2:2
60. I Corinthians 2:8
61. II Corinthians 13:4
62. Galatians 2:20
63. Galatians 3:1
64. Galatians 5:24
65. Galatians 6:14

Summary:

As you read the scriptures on the cross, I know that the Lord has given you revelation on what took place as He was made a curse for us. We need to be able to appropriate into our lives what Jesus paid for on the cross. The full payment was made, and a just God is satisfied. We can't allow the deceiver of the brethren to deceive us into thinking there is more to pay. Grace loses its power in our lives if the devil can get us over into a mindset of works to receive. I receive by grace and then I work because of my great love. The cross is what I can always look at and know of the great grace that the Father has for me. How could I ever doubt that He wants to work on my behalf after I see the cross? The Father did not just talk about love, but He demonstrated it right before me by going to the cross and dying in my place. Not only just dying, but being made sin, so I could be made righteous. Not just dying, but being made a curse so I could get rid of the curse. Not just dying but destroying the power of death over me, so I can live in joy and not heaviness. Allow this revelation of the finished work of the cross to come alive in your life. We are not waiting anymore-it is finished!

Action:

Take Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:22,23; and Joshua 8:29 and begin to memorize and meditate on them. Write down the things that the Lord begins to show you and then apply it to your life.