


Intro.A. **THE CROSS OF JESUS** --- what does it mean?

1. The crucifixion of Christ serves to reveal & proclaim some powerful messages, but not all have agreed on what those messages are.
  - a. Some standing around Calvary thought the cross was evidence that Jesus = an imposter, **Mt.27:40ff**
  - b. 10's of 1000's have sung, *When I Survey That Wondrous Cross... & In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
2. The cross has been worshipped, as well as mocked; it was a symbol of criminal execution in 1<sup>st</sup>. Cent.; it has become a symbol of honorary memorial.

## B. But what does the cross of Calvary really reveal? What is the message of the cross that makes it unique to millions of other crosses?

1. Listen carefully to Paul's statement about the one really significant thing that anyone has a God-given right to glory in, **Gal. 6:14**
2. If we will look to the cross & learn its worth to us, then we will develop a deeper appreciation & interest in what it reveals to each of us.

Discuss.I. CROSS REVEALS SINA. The Corinthians were told that on the cross, Jesus *died for our sins*, **1 Cor. 15:3**

1. In **Rom. 5:6** we learn that Christ died for the ungodly.....(i.e., *for us*, **5:8**)
2. While the ugly nature of sin is exposed throughout the scriptures (Cain killing Able (**Gn. 4**) ; David's lust & adultery w/ Bathsheba (**2 Sam. 11**); the failure of the Jews to give adequately to God (**Mal. 3:8**) --- nothing exposes the sinister nature of sin like the cross. **Lk. 23:45**
  - a. The darkness that blackened the noon sky for 3 hours marked the darkest hours of the human race, 
  - b.


B. As Jesus died on Calvary, the pattern for our life was altered! **2 Cor. 5:14f**

1. Before his death & before our fellowship in the likeness of His death (**Rom. 6:3-4**), we were in a hopeless condition, described in **Eph. 2:12**.
2. **Vs. 16** goes on to explain how Jesus death "*opened the door*" for us to have fellowship with God.
  - a. It is just as we sing, *He carried our sins with Him there*(Song: **Isa. 53:6**)
  - b. Remember the Divine description in **2 Cor. 5:21**.

II. CROSS REVEALS GOD'S LOVEA. Nothing announces God's love with greater volume, clarity & resonance than does the cross. -- **Jn.3:16**

1. **Rom. 5:6-8**
2. **Jn. 15:13** *Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

## B. Too many times we fail to appreciate the lavish blessings &amp; provisions God gives us daily.

1. The cross compels all who believe to measure the magnitude of God's love, & then to love Him in return! (c. **1 Jn. 4:19**). 
2. Seeing the scars of the crucifixion in the body of Christ makes our soul mourn, because we know that you & I really are responsible for the horrible death that Jesus died.
3. That rugged old cross makes us sorry for our sins that made such a gracious gift necessary.

## C. The Cross = God's strongest appeal to sinful man.


1. Hear the appeal of the proclamation of the cross in **Rm. 5:10**
2. Knowing the difference the cross could make in the life of *the chief of sinners*, Paul focused his preaching on Calvary – **1 Cor. 2:2**. [**#5, A Hill Called Mt. Calvary, vs. 2**]

III. CROSS REVEALS PERFECTION

## A. Thru means of the cross, the world came to know what Perfect Character really is.

1. **Heb. 2:9-10**
2. **Heb 5:8f**

**Phil.2:8**


- B. Absolute perfection is exemplified in Jesus' submission to Father's will, & humbly becoming man 
1. We have a **perfect pattern** as the model for our life.
  2. With God's help & by His grace, we can follow the foot prints of Jesus to throne of God (**Heb. 12:2**)

#### **IV. CROSS REVEALS A CHANGE IN DIVINE LAW**

- A. Golgatha is the pivotal point at which the Law of Moses was fulfilled & replaced by the Law of Christ.
1. Study **Col. 2:14-17** & observe how the cross took away the feast days, the Sabbath day, clean & unclean meats, the special status of the nation of Israel, etc.
  2. By His cross, Jesus became the *mediator of the N. T.* (**Heb. 9:15**)
- B. This transition just outside of Jerusalem made it possible for all men to become children of God.

**Eph. 2:13-16**

#### **V. CROSS REVEALS A SEPARATION**

- A. The cross separated Christ from his human form in the world, and released Him to return him to heaven.
- B. Paul said that thru the cross *the world has been crucified to me, & I to the world*, **Gal. 6:14**.
1. Thru God's word we are called to *come out f/ among [the world] & be separate, & touch no unclean thing*, **2 Cor. 6:17** 
  2. The church, *the called out ones*, are described by Peter in **1 Pet. 2:9**
  3. **1 Jn. 1:5-7**
- C. When we make the right response in our life to the cross, we *put to death* sin in our lives & live for Jesus, **Rom. 8:13 & Col. 3:5**.
1. As we become united with Christ (i.e., *bapt. into Christ...into His death, & buried w/ Him by baptism* then we rise from baptism's watery grave to walk *in newness of life* --- having been separated f/ sin!!!
  2. *Our old man was crucified w/ Him, that the body of sin might be done away....*, **vs. 6**
  3. The cross can empower us to leave the world of sin behind us, & enable us to live righteously.

Concl.

#### **VI. HIS CROSS REVEALS A CROSS FOR ME**

- A. *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, & take up his cross & follow me*, **Lk. 9:23**
- B. *Must Jesus bear the cross alone, & all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, & there's a cross for me.*
- C. From the observation point of the foot of the cross, we can see ahead to a glorious crown, reserved in Heaven for faithful followers of God.
1. Thru God's word, the reveals today
    - a. sin
    - b. God's love
    - c. True perfection
    - d. New Testament law
    - e. Separation from sin
  2. If you find that you need to apply the blood of Jesus in your life, & that you need His blood to
    - a. wash away your sins today so that you might for added to God's family & enjoy a new life
    - b. or if you need to apply the blood of cross of Christ to your life as one of God's children who is coming back home ready to be cleansed & forgiven.....

**THEN COME RIGHT NOW !**